# VIP PROTECTION

# ROOM CLEARING TACTICS

## ROOM, HALLWAY AND STAIRWELL CLEARING FOR 3-4 PERSON DETAILS

SPECIAL TACTICS™

Special Tactics, LLC

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*To those who have gone before us, the living and the fallen*

# COURSE OVERVIEW
# Advanced Room Clearing for Protection

This book focuses on room clearing tactics (RCT) as they apply to VIP protection work. Special Tactics prefers the term "Room Clearing Tactics" (RCT) over "Close Quarters Battle" (CQB) since RCT is more descriptive of the specific skill set commonly referred to as CQB. By definition CQB would include hand-to-hand fighting, trench assault tactics and jungle warfare since combat in all of these cases is in close quarters. On the other hand, RCT specifies that tactics involve clearing rooms and interior structures. However, in common usage, the terms RCT and CQB are talking about the same thing.

This book is also the first volume in Special Tactics' new *advanced series*. The term "advanced" does not necessarily mean that the techniques themselves are more advanced. Most elite units often do not employ more advanced techniques. Instead, they employ basic techniques much more effectively, having achieved true mastery of the basics. Therefore, this book still focuses on basics and fundamentals but instead of covering individual techniques, it focuses on providing more real-world, scenario-based examples of how to combine various techniques to solve tactical problems. Hence, this book assumes the reader is starting with a background in RCT/CQB and protection tactics since the specific steps for various clearing mechanics are not covered in detail.

While it is possible for a reader to benefit from this book without an existing RCT and protection background, we recommend first reading our other CQB books including *Single-Person Close Quarters Battle, Two-Person Close Quarters Battle*. We also sell more in-depth, RCT/CQB publications on our website that require credentials or background checks. In addition, background in protection work as covered in our *Escort Detail Venue VIP Protection* will also prove helpful for understanding this book and getting the most out of it. Individuals with extensive RCT/CQB and protection experience from other sources may not need these additional references.

While this book focuses on realistic examples and scenarios, note that it would not be possible to cover every scenario a protective detail might encounter. Therefore, while our advanced series books are roughly twice the length of our other open-source books, there are

many gaps that are left out and many questions left unanswered. The examples in this book were chosen to help readers learn how to better think about tactical problems in protection work. By studying the examples in this book, the reader should be able to apply similar concepts and thinking patterns to solve new, unexpected problems in real-world operations.

Also, the examples in this book are not intended to provide the "right way" to solve a particular tactical problem. Our examples are intended to be realistic, not perfect. Looking at the diagrams you might ask, "wouldn't it be better if the Shift Leader (SL) was standing farther to the right?" or, "why did the Officer in Charge (OIC) choose to use and one-handed-pull instead of a two-handed push?" We suggest you not get too absorbed in such questions since once again, the examples are intended to illustrate concepts, not provide the only way to solve a problem. In some cases, the detail members in our examples even make mistakes since such mistakes can happen in real life and illustrate important points.

# VIP Protection Overview

As with our other VIP protection books, this one on RCT offers only one piece in the larger puzzle of protection work. It is impossible to study and understand protection RCT without at least a general understanding of protection operations as a whole. This first section provides an overview of the complete Special Tactics course of instruction on VIP protection in order to offer a context for the specific tactics, techniques and procedures explained in the rest of the book that relate specifically to RCT.

VIP protection, sometimes referred to as executive protection or dignitary protection, is one of the most challenging and complex types of security operations. There are many reasons for this, including the large number of variables and uncertainties that a protection detail may have to deal with, the wide range of skills and activities associated with protection work, and the difficulties of dealing with a VIP who likely has little experience with or understanding of dangerous situations. Therefore, the challenge of protection work should not be taken lightly and it is critical to seek out the most capable and highly-trained people when forming a protective detail.

This book focuses on conducting operations with a protective detail consisting of 3-4 personnel or what we call the "escort detail." While an escort detail is large and more capable than a single-person (singleton) or two-person detail, it is still small compared to a full protective detail of 6+ personnel. This means that the escort detail will be facing increased risk and detail personnel will need to assume multiple roles/responsibilities. In the event of an attack, the escort detail also has limited manpower with which to respond. It is also important to note that some sections of this book cover tactics for one or two people. This is necessary because when operating an escort detail, some personnel might need to remain with the motorcade, leaving only 1-2 detail members on the ground at the venue with the VIP. This makes protection operations at the venue even more potentially dangerous.

## Why Employ an Escort Detail?

Why should we employ an escort detail for protection operations if it is so dangerous and challenging? There are a number of possible answers to that question, but the simplest and most common answer is because there is no other option. While very high-profile individuals and politicians have the money and resources to employ a full-sized security detail, most others do not. Many well-known celebrities, important business executives and senior leaders can only employ a single bodyguard. Therefore, a 3-4 person escort detail could even be considered large in terms of the vast majority of protection work that goes on around the world.

The escort detail is the smallest detail that can provide a reasonable level of security in a high-threat situation. Therefore, even if a VIP's resources are limited, he/she should strive to employ a 3-4 person security force, especially when faced with a specific threat or elevated threat level. Members of state and local government, senior business executives, religious leaders and other public figures are a few examples of people who might need to employ an escort detail. In some cases, the personnel for this detail may be drawn from local law enforcement. In other cases, the detail may be members of a private security company.

Another reason for employing a small escort detail might relate to the constraints associated with a "low-visibility" or "low-profile" scenario. In some cases, an individual might want protection but not want to draw attention to himself/herself. It is difficult to be discrete with a four-car motorcade. When it is critical to maintain a low profile, the only option might be to employ a smaller escort detail. Therefore, there is an additional demand for escort detail protection tactics from those conducting low-visibility, high-risk operations overseas. While this book does not specifically address the additional factors and constraints associated with low-visibility or low-profile operations, the same general principles of protection still apply.

## Phases of Protection Operations

The security mission never stops. If a detail is protecting a VIP against a serious threat, it will need to provide security 24-hours per-day and 7-days per week. It is impossible to predict where and when an attack might take place. Even if the VIP cannot afford round-the-clock security, there must still be plans and measures in place to maintain security at all times. Therefore, as time passes, security operations generally fall into three phases or categories: site security (including compound, building, office, home etc.), mobile security and venue security.

The logic of these three phases or categories is fairly straightforward. When the VIP is at home, the detail must still protect the VIP against threats but the nature of the security work will most likely focus on obstacles like gates and locks, alert/alarm systems, cameras, guard shifts, fixed sentries, roving patrols, and pre-planned responses to possible attacks. The tactics, training, skills, and equipment associated with site, compound or home security are all quite specialized and specific to that particular phase of the security effort. They may not carry over into other types or phases of security operations.

The next phase of security is mobile security. When the VIP decides to go somewhere, he/she will most likely travel there by car. Providing security for the VIP along the route to his/her destination involves organizing a motorcade, planning a route, developing, and rehearsing specific procedures for the VIP's arrival to and departure from various locations. In addition, the motorcade might come under attack at any point during the operation. The motorcade must establish standard operating procedures for responding to various types of attacks along the route.

When the VIP arrives at his/her destination, some of the detail members must be prepared to dismount and accompany the VIP on foot. We call this phase of the operation venue security. While there are an almost unlimited number of activities the VIP might be conducting at the destination, some activities are more common than others. Such activities might include a meet-and-greet with another VIP, delivering a speech from a podium or stage, shaking hands along a fence line etc. While moving about on foot, the VIP will also likely have to pass through certain types of structures, utilize stairwells and elevators. Keeping the VIP safe in all of these cases is the objective of venue security.

Once the VIP accomplishes his/her objectives at the venue, the motorcade will depart and return home. The trip back falls into the category of mobile security and the detail resumes site security (either compound, building, office, or home) once the motorcade arrives safely. In summary, security operations can be divided into three phases or types, each one posing very unique challenges for the security detail.

In addition to these three general categories or phases, there are other special cases or topics that relate to protection. For example, a protection detail must learn specialized RCT tactics and offensive/defensive empty-hand tactics that are specific to protection work. The realm of VIP protection operational planning, intelligence and advance force operations is also large enough to warrant its own category in a training curriculum.

This book focuses on protection room clearing tactics (PRCT). PRCT can apply to any of the three phases of protection operations but most often relates to venue and site security. In most cases, a protective detail needs to employ room clearing tactics when something goes wrong or there is an emergency situation. For example, if the VIP comes under attack while at the venue or if hostile forces assault the VIP's compound, the protective detail might need to use PRCT to evacuate and/or protect the VIP under fire. While many of the basic principles from standard RCT remain the same, in PRCT there are certain aspects and dynamics that change when you are clearing rooms with a VIP attached to your element.

It is also important to note that if VIP protection is not your primary mission, PRCT can still be useful to any tactical organization such as a SWAT team or special operations unit. For example, if a tactical unit is conducting a hostage rescue mission or encounters innocent civilians who need to be evacuated from a building, they will use the same PRCT fundamentals to protect and evacuate those individuals. PRCT tactics apply in some form whenever a tactical team encounters non-combatants, innocent civilians or threats who have surrendered and need to be evacuated. Therefore, PRCT is a useful skill set for any tactician.

## Sizes of Protective Details

As already discussed, this book focuses on what we term the escort detail of 3-4 personnel. The escort detail is the smallest detail that can provide a reasonable level of security against an elevated threat, around the clock. The additional personnel offer the detail more flexibility and the option to employ supporting assets like an Advance or a Shadow/Follow Car. The additional personnel also allow for the establishments of shifts to provide 24-hour coverage, though with only 3-4 people the shift schedule will prove to be taxing. Finally, the additional personnel offer the ability to absorb casualties and still continue operations.

The smallest size detail, either a singleton or two-person detail, has almost none of these advantages which makes it a much more dangerous option when facing an elevated threat. This is particularly relevant when it comes to sustaining casualties. If a singleton or two-person detail takes a casualty, it becomes essentially combat ineffective and will have great difficulty continuing to provide protection for the VIP. However, despite these dangers, in some cases there may not be additional personnel, resources or funding available to field more than one or two personnel on a detail. A singleton detail is better than nothing and a two-person detail is substantially better than a singleton detail.

In the ideal scenario, the VIP has enough resources to field a full detail. A 5-person detail is the smallest size detail that can be considered a "full" detail in terms of capability and protection level. However, in most cases a full detail will include at least 6 personnel and sometimes more. A full detail is able to provide one or more Advance personnel and a 2-3 vehicle motorcade. A full detail may include assets like counter-sniper support or an additional vehicle carrying a heavily-armed Counter Assault Team or CAT. Given that most established, full-detail tactics are generally employed by U.S. Government Agencies to protect high-level officials, Special Tactics does not publish any digital or online training materials covering full-detail tactics due to their complexity and other considerations that necessitate in-person training. However, Special Tactics does offer full-detail protection training in-person and in printed form.

Another important factor regarding the size of protection details relates to how tactics and procedures change as the size of the detail changes. The procedures for conducting simple activities can vary considerably based on the size of the detail. Even adding an additional person to a 3-person detail can significantly change tactical procedures. This is another factor that makes protection work particularly complex and why it is important to practice working with different sized details.

## The Objective of Protection Operations

The most critical and obvious objective of protection operations is protecting the VIP from death or injury. However, the job of a protection detail does not end there. The detail is also responsible for protecting the VIP from embarrassment and harassment, particularly in public settings. In addition, a good security detail helps the VIP avoid as many inconveniences and

frustrations as possible. These objectives can be difficult to accomplish all at the same time and can sometimes be conflicting or contradictory. This is another factor that makes protection work particularly challenging.

VIPs, public figures, and politicians can stir emotions when they meet others or make appearances. These emotions can end up causing embarrassment. There are many ways such a scenario might play out. For example, angry bystanders who do not like the VIP might yell insults and throw fluids or projectiles at the VIP. In some cases, people might be throwing harmless materials, ridicule the VIP or dirty the VIP's clothing. In other cases, they may be throwing things that could cause injury. Bystanders might throw eggs at the motorcade, perform profane or indecent acts or cause damage to property. The security detail must try to stop these activities or mitigate their effects as much as possible.

In some cases, it might be appropriate for the security detail to physically intervene and control people who are causing embarrassment. However, such aggressive action is not always feasible or justified. In some cases, embarrassing activities might be illegal, in other cases, the actions of bystanders might be protected as free speech. In some cases, it would not be appropriate for the detail to intervene but local law enforcement might be able to step in to stop illegal activities such as indecent exposure or disturbing the peace. The detail must understand the complex nature of these factors to choose the most appropriate and effective response.

In some cases, the security detail itself might end up causing more embarrassment for the VIP than troublesome bystanders. For example, suppose there is a rowdy individual who is yelling insults at the VIP and moving closer and closer to the walking formation in an aggressive manner. At a certain point the detail may have to step in and make physical contact with the rowdy individual to keep the individual away from the VIP. If one of the detail members gets into a physical struggle, starts throwing punches, and hits the rowdy individual in the face knocking him down this could cause a major public relations problem for the VIP.

Even if aggressive force was justified from a security perspective, it is likely that another bystander captured the event using a phone camera. Videos can be edited to only include the aggressive actions taken by the security detail. The story can be framed in a way that makes the aggressor look like a victim and casts the VIP and the security detail in a bad light. The fallout and embarrassment from such an incident can be much worse than anything the rowdy bystander might have done. It is therefore critical for the security detail to understand how to best navigate such complex dilemmas.

While the primary concern must always be the physical safety of the VIP, a good security detail knows how to resolve potentially embarrassing situations in a way that is least likely to cause negative fallout for the VIP. For example, instead of punching a threatening individual in the face, there are other defensive tactics that can effectively accomplish the objective but appear much less menacing, such as a shoulder takedown or redirect technique.

Sometimes fans or supporters can be as much of an embarrassment threat as opponents. Adoring fans might mob the VIP, try to touch or hug him/her. When shaking hands along a fence line, an overzealous supporter might refuse to let go of the VIP's hand. Such events can be embarrassing or uncomfortable for the VIP and it is up to the security detail to resolve such incidents as quickly and quietly as possible while remaining courteous and polite

at all times. If the detail overreacts and ends up hurting or offending a fan, that can cause problems for the VIP, especially if the incident is caught on video.

The detail must also protect the VIP from embarrassment or mishaps caused by random environmental factors. With all the security detail has to worry about and focus on, it is easy for someone to accidentally close the VIP's coat in the car door, step on the VIP's heel, bump into or trip the VIP etc. If it is raining or windy or if there are hazards on the ground, that can cause additional, unexpected environmental challenges for the detail. In short, the security detail cannot afford to ignore even the most trivial factors while maintaining primary focus on the most important objective: the physical security of the VIP.

## Dealing with the VIP

In some cases, dealing with the VIP can be just as challenging as dealing with potential threats. Every VIP is different and it is up to the security detail to understand the personality and individual quirks of the person they are protecting. Some VIPs can be very difficult to work with. They might say that the security detail makes them feel constrained or uncomfortable. They may defy the security detail and take reckless risks that put everyone in danger. In some cases, the security detail might even get reprimanded by the VIP for nothing more than doing their jobs thoroughly. However, the security detail will also get blamed if something goes wrong and the VIP gets hurt. Balancing such challenging, contradictory demands can make protection work much more complicated and difficult.

In other cases, the VIP might be paranoid and extremely demanding, calling on the security detail constantly and reporting imagined threats. Such a VIP might reprimand the security detail for the smallest, perceived mistake or infraction. Fear, panic, and paranoia might cause the VIP to behave erratically or irrationally, making him/her harder to protect. When dealing with this sort of VIP, the detail must not let the VIP's behavior cause distractions that jeopardize the primary objective. At the same time, the detail personnel must do their best to comfort the VIP and make him/her feel as safe and reassured as possible.

Some VIPs might have former security, military or law enforcement experience and have the overzealous mindset of, "I can take care of myself." While it might seem that VIPs with tactical experience would be easier to protect, this is not always the case. The VIP is not part of the security detail and should stand back and let the security detail personnel perform their jobs without interference. Dealing with a VIP who thinks he/she is smarter or more qualified to run the security detail than the actual detail personnel can be particularly challenging.

These are just a few common personality issues the detail might encounter when dealing with a VIP. The biggest problem with all of these issues is that the VIP is ultimately the boss or the client in one way or another. Therefore, the detail has to find a way to make the VIP happy and do what the VIP wants, which as with the cases above, can contradict best security practices. It is important for the security detail to understand their exact relationship with the VIP. For example, if the VIP hires a private security detail, he/she can fire the detail at any time. Alternatively, politicians may have less control when it comes to firing or reprimanding their

security personnel. As a security professional, it is important to know who the real client is and recognize the challenges of balancing the client's satisfaction with safety concerns.

## Who This Book is For and How to Use It

This book will of course be useful to security professionals who need to conduct protection operations with limited resources, limiting them to a detail of only 3-4 people. However, given that the fundamental principles of protection operations are applicable to many different areas of tactics and combat, the book can also be useful to anyone who is looking to increase their tactical knowledge or capability including law enforcement officers, military personnel or responsible citizens who want to keep themselves, their families, and communities safe.

Law enforcement officers are sometimes required to provide security details for local government officials or public figures, or in some other cases law enforcement officers need to work in coordination with protection details or private security companies. Military personnel likewise sometimes need to provide security details for high-ranking officers or other VIPs visiting a base or area of operations. Civilians may also find themselves in need of knowledge about security procedures, either to provide their own security or to evaluate the quality of security companies they hire. Not all the information in this book might apply to every one of these individuals, but the general knowledge and concepts have applications to many aspects of tactics and self-defense.

Just reading this book will not make you more effective as a security professional or security detail member. You must practice the techniques in this book over and over as part of a more complete tactical training, weapons training, and fitness program in order to truly enhance your combat performance. While you can read this book from cover-to-cover for background, you will find that some sections are repetitive, which is intended to make each section of the book self-contained. A more practical way to use the book is to reference the sections that are most relevant to you in the context of a larger training program. The book is designed to complement other books from Special Tactics as well as online courses and in-person training. Reading this book is only the beginning to becoming proficient at the art and science of protection.

# INTRODUCTION
# The Four Pillars of Survival

The "four pillars" of survival are proper mindset, situational awareness, skill proficiency and physical fitness. These pillars form the basis for success in all combat situations. This manual is intended not only to teach specific techniques, but rather to increase the reader's actual chances of survival and success in a real-life emergency. An expert marksman who is not mentally prepared for the stress of combat and not ready to employ lethal force can lose to an untrained adversary. Lack of situational awareness, even for a moment, can cause an experienced fighter to fall victim to unskilled enemies. Therefore, any combat training program must rest on the following four pillars.

## Proper Mindset

Proper mindset is the most critical of the four pillars. In the simplest terms, people with the proper mindset devote significant time and energy to protecting themselves and their loved ones from the worst-case scenario. Many people will learn to shoot a pistol or study a martial art but their skills decline quickly because they fail to practice frequently enough. Having the proper mindset means being tough, determined, never cutting corners, and taking every precaution to ensure survival. In a combat situation, having the proper mindset means being prepared to employ lethal force without hesitation and never quitting during the fight regardless of fear or pain. The training suggestions in this manual will help you develop the proper mindset.

## Situational Awareness

Lack of situational awareness is one of the leading causes of failure or death in combat situations. In modern society, most people's situational awareness is very low. They generally

spend their day wrapped up in their own thoughts and problems and pay little attention to what is going on around them. People who live in relatively secure environments fall into even deeper levels of complacency and unpreparedness. The mentality of, "it can't happen to me," can ultimately prove to be disastrously wrong. Most victims of crime, terrorism and other deadly attacks lived their lives thinking, "it can't happen to me."

People with the proper mindset understand the importance of situational awareness and make disciplined efforts to cultivate it. Situational awareness begins with awareness of the threat and awareness that bad things can happen to anyone. Situational awareness involves trying to remain alert at all times without being paranoid. Situational awareness also involves keeping up with local news and studying trends in violent crime. Those committed to protecting their families might conduct research to identify registered sex offenders in their area. When you travel to a new city, it is useful to learn which neighborhoods have a higher crime rate and plan your route accordingly. The best way to improve your situational awareness is to make a conscious effort to continually cultivate and improve it.

## Skill Proficiency

Once you have the proper mindset and maintain good situational awareness, the next step is to ensure you have the proper skills or "tools" to protect yourself in a combat situation. When striving to improve skill proficiency it is important to choose the best skills and techniques that are simple, effective, easy to perform and can realistically apply to a real-life scenario. Then you must practice these techniques repeatedly until they become second nature. This will maximize the chances that you will respond immediately in a high-stress situation. The central focus of this manual is to help you build skill proficiency.

## Physical Fitness

Fitness is a critical but often overlooked factor that affects your chances of survival in a combat situation. Even skilled fighters with the proper mindset and high levels of situational awareness can lose a fight simply because they run out of energy. In order to maintain adequate levels of combat fitness, you do not need to achieve the same fitness level as a professional or Olympic athlete. Rather, the key is merely to stay healthy, maintain a decent level of cardiovascular endurance, running speed, functional strength, and coordination. Popular commercial fitness programs don't always focus on the most useful abilities needed for combat. For example, many people jog but how many also run sprints to build speed? Simply being able to run fast without falling is one of the most critical survival skills in a gunfight or emergency situation, yet most people rarely practice sprinting. For those interested in combat fitness, Special Tactics provides a range of books and courses on the subject.

# PROTECTION ROOM CLEARING TACTICS
# Fundamentals and Organization

The four fundamentals just described apply to all types of combat and security operations. There are also certain concepts and fundamentals that apply specifically to protection work. While the techniques of VIP protection vary widely depending on the situation, there are certain core concepts and fundamentals that apply to almost all aspects of security operations.

## Cover, Concealment and Screening

Cover and concealment are some of the most basic and important concepts in all types of modern combat operations. However, remarkably, it is very common for even experienced security professionals, law enforcement officers and military personnel to fail to take advantage of cover and concealment, even when under hostile fire. When conducting protection operations in particular, you must take maximum advantage of cover and concealment at all times to ensure the safety of the VIP and the rest of the security detail. It is also critical to take advantage of screening whenever possible, using objects and obstacles to screen the detail or motorcade from hostile observation.

When you are not under fire and operating under normal conditions, you should still be mindful of cover, concealment, and screening. This means, if you are standing still, it is better not to stand in the open but instead stand near a large object or piece of cover. Even if you are not actually crouching down and taking cover behind that object, it will provide some degree of protection. More importantly, should you need cover quickly, you will be standing right next to it and won't have to run to cover first and then get down.

It is also important to provide "body coverage" for the VIP whenever possible. This means that if you are escorting the VIP away from a potential threat, you should position yourself between the VIP and the threat as you evacuate. This sometimes requires you to move closer to the VIP and angle your body differently. Body coverage becomes more effective if you are wearing armor.

Finally, cover and concealment become even more important when you are under fire. If you are taking hostile fire, do not run out into the open if you can take cover behind a solid object. Under heavy fire, you may have to go prone (lie down) to offer a smaller target and take advantage of cover provided by a curb or small hill. It is also critical not to take cover behind objects that will not stop bullets like small trees, bushes, or trash cans. All of these examples emphasize the importance of cover, concealment and screening and show how it is critical to all aspects of protection operations.

## Speed and Timing

Like cover and concealment, speed and timing are critical, core concepts that apply to all aspects of protection operations. In emergency situations, you must move fast. When protecting a VIP from an unruly crowd, you may only have a few seconds to put yourself between the VIP and a rowdy individual charging through the fence line or cordon. If people throw eggs, or objects at the VIP you may have only an instant to attempt to knock the projectiles down and get the VIP out of the way.

Speed and timing are also closely connected. Being precise in the timing of your actions and movements also greatly increases security for the VIP. This concept applies to everything from ensuring the VIP sticks precisely to his/her schedule and arrives at all meetings and events on time. In short, while speed is often critical, it is sometimes also important to ensure the timing of your actions is precisely controlled and synchronized.

## Free-Flowing Flexibility

It is important to remember that procedures can change based on the situation and must remain flexible. This is particularly important when operating with a small detail of only 3-4 people. Every member of the detail must maintain situational awareness and be prepared to fill in and cover down for their fellow detail members.

For example, if a technique calls for the Officer in Charge (OIC also sometimes called the Team Leader) to take control of the VIP and provide body coverage in an emergency, what happens if another detail member is much closer to the VIP? Should the detail put the VIP at risk and wait for the OIC to get in position? No, the closer detail member should assume the OIC's responsibility in a flexible, free-flowing manner. The two detail members must then recognize what has happened and trade off responsibilities if needed. This calls for all detail members to cross train in order to be able to fill in for one another in an emergency.

The same "free-flow" principle applies to all aspects of protection operations. If one detail member is providing cover to the right, the next detail member will cover the left, but if the first detail member covers the left, the next will remain flexible and cover the right. This is the concept of free-flowing flexibility.

# Detail Organization and Position Assignments

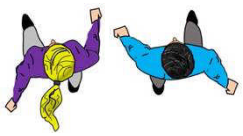
If you are operating with three or four people, there are a number of different ways you can organize or assign them depending on your priorities, mission and expected threat. While a 3-4 person detail offers more options than a 1-2 person detail, it is still limited in capacity compared to a full detail with 6+ personnel. Detail members will need to assume multiple roles and responsibilities while covering several potential threats simultaneously. In most cases the detail will also have to assume risk in some areas in order to offer better protection in other areas. Essentially, sometimes you may have to give up something to gain something.

When organizing a detail you need to consider transportation. In most cases you will need transportation to get wherever you are going. The number of vehicles you have will affect how many detail members you can employ and how many detail members will be free to exit the vehicles to provide walking protection at the venue. The chart on the next page lists the various positions you can employ in an escort detail.

Depending on the size of your detail, you will be able to pick 3 or 4 of the listed positions and assign them to your personnel. Therefore, if no vehicle transportation is required, you will not need to assign any drivers to remain with the vehicles and you can therefore have a 3-4 person walking escort. However, if you need a single vehicle motorcade you will have to assign a limo driver, limiting you to a 3-person walking escort. If you employ a two vehicle motorcade you will need two drivers, leaving no more than two detail members for walking escort.

An additional complication arises from the fact that most VIPs prefer to sit alone in the back of the limo, meaning that unless you employ two vehicles, only the limo driver and OIC will be able to ride in the motorcade. Any additional personnel will need to arrange for their own transportation ahead of time with the advance and meet the detail at the venue. For all of these reasons, this book includes instructions for conducting PRCT with anywhere from two to four people. Even though you might have a four-person detail, you might find yourself with fewer personnel for any of the reasons discussed above.

Another consideration relates to vehicle evacuation. If the motorcade is immobilized, the drivers will need to exit the vehicles and will then assume roles as part of the walking detail. Therefore, it is critical for drivers to understand how to assume the roles of the Right/Left Rear, Advance or even Officer in Charge (OIC) and Shift Leader (SL) in an emergency situation. With limited manpower, it is critical for all detail members to cross train in each other's responsibilities in various activities and tactical movements. Once again, the table lists the various positions you can assign to your personnel when operating with a 3-4 person escort detail. You can pick 3-4 of these positions depending on the size of your detail and the constraints imposed by transportation.

| POSITION | DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES |
|---|---|
| *Officer in Charge (Team Leader)* | Overall in charge of the detail and primarily responsible for the VIP. Remains close to the VIP at all times during movement and is personally responsible for the VIP's safety and wellbeing. Handles all administrative matters relating to the VIP. Works closely with the VIP and the VIP's Staff to ensure all goals and objectives are accomplished. |
| *Advance* | Performs all on-site venue surveys and site/venue coordinations. Acts as a guide for the rest of the detail while at the venue or scheduled stops. Coordinates security arrangements before the detail's arrival at the venue. Receives and leads the VIP to all arranged personal meetings and/or specific locations at the venue as specified on the VIP's itinerary. |
| *Shift Leader* | Tactical commander of the detail. Works closely with the OIC to ensure all security aspects are covered before, during, and after a protection mission. Manages and responsible for all personnel duty assignments, training, and all tactical matters pertaining to the detail. |
| *Right/Left Rear*  | The right rear (RR) or left rear (LR) is an additional detail member that augments security for the detail while on foot. In an escort detail limited to four people, you will only be able to have one person right/left rear position. Therefore, the designation of "right" and "left" is flexible and can vary depending on the situation. |
| *Limo Driver* | Drives the limo and responsible for all Limo related matters and activities. Prepares, maintains, and handles the Limo during all VIP travels. Keeps the OIC updated on the status of the Limo at all times. Remains with the Limo during operations and movement. Monitors and responds to all radio transmissions as needed. |
| *Shadow Car Driver* | Drives the Shadow Car. Responsible for all Shadow Car related matters. He/she keeps the OIC updated on the status of the Shadow Car at all times and has total control of the Shadow Car during all VIP travels. Remains with the Shadow Car at all times. Monitors and responds to all radio transmissions as needed. |

# Common Protection Room Clearing Tactics Scenarios

This book is organized somewhat differently than other Special Tactics books on CQB or RCT. In other books we break techniques down into their smallest possible components or building blocks. For example, we give instruction for how a single person might clear a single center-fed room using a clear-from-the-doorway, reverse-180, or deep penetration technique. Other books might show a two-person element or team how to clear a corner-fed room using either immediate or delayed entry techniques. The idea of presenting individual techniques in

isolation is to give the reader maximum flexibility to combine the various building-blocks to fit specific situations. However, our other books don't spend much time showing how to put the different building-blocks together, they just focus on providing the building blocks themselves.

This book takes the opposite approach and focuses not on individual techniques but how to combine different techniques to solve tactical problems with a VIP in tow. The art of PRCT is less about how to clear an individual room and more about how to get the VIP from point A to point B through multiple rooms to a safe location or evacuation point, with threats coming from different directions. The way a protective detail decides to clear a specific room depends on what they expect to find in the next room or what threats are pursuing from the rear. Therefore, after briefly reviewing some basic movement and control techniques from the *Venue VIP Protection* book, this book begins with two-room scenarios as the starting point to illustrate concepts.

The book also covers how to clear danger areas such as hallways, intersections, and stairwells with different sized details. The final sections of the book provide example scenarios of how details of different sizes might clear more complex, multiple-room configurations with furniture and obstacles and then go on to discuss how to plan a safe route through a larger building or structure. As already mentioned, it would be impossible for this book to cover every possible scenario. The scenarios chosen are meant to illustrate key concepts and patterns to help the reader think through how to solve any problem.

In a real-world protection mission, there are a variety of reasons why a detail might actually be executing the techniques in this book. The detail might come under attack while escorting the VIP at the venue and need to quickly move the VIP to a pre-planned or improvised safehaven while waiting for support to arrive. Alternatively, the detail might have to use PRCT to get the VIP back to the motorcade and evacuate.

Details might also need to use PRCT if the motorcade is attacked and the there is no option but to evacuate to a nearby building. Since a motorcade can be attacked at any point along its route, you may be completely unfamiliar with the area you find yourself in after evacuating your vehicle. This situation will require additional vigilance and sound tactics in order to ensure the VIP's safety.

Ultimately, in order to be truly effective, a tactician needs to have mastered the basics and exposed himself/herself to so many different scenarios and contingencies that it is possible to make critical decisions instantly through an intuitive "game sense" that often operates faster than the speed of conscious thought. It is impossible to gain that level of mastery just by reading this book. However, this book will point the way for how to develop increasingly challenging scenarios and practice those scenarios in realistic training exercises.

# VENUE SECURITY BASICS
# Movement and Control Techniques

In order to conduct PRCT it is important for all detail members to know several basic movement and VIP body control techniques. This section draws material from the *Escort Detail Venue VIP Protection* book that is worth reviewing prior to a more detailed discussion of PRCT. When moving on foot the detail might come under attack. Such an attack might take many forms. A rowdy or drunk individual might approach the VIP and start to yell or throw objects or liquids on the VIP. That same individual might try to push or grab the VIP. In other cases, a crowd of fans or supporters might mob the detail, trying to touch or hug the VIP.

Attacks can also be deadly. The detail might come under fire. This fire might be coming from a distance, or one or more shooters might attack from close range. An attacker armed with a knife might attack and chase the detail. An attacker might try to ram the detail with a car or motorcycle. There are too many possible scenarios to plan for dealing with each possibility individually. However, there are some general concepts, principles and techniques that can prove useful in all attack scenarios.

When an attack takes place, you will generally not continue moving in your standard walking formation. Rather you will either form a close or contact protective ring and grab hold of the VIP to physically control the VIP's movement. This section offers a number of techniques for grabbing and physically controlling the VIP in an emergency situation.

If you are operating with a detail that has more than one member, the additional detail members can respond in different ways based on the situation. Detail members might add to the protective ring and provide body coverage for the VIP, help guide the VIP to safety, scout ahead for threats or provide covering fire to protect the evacuation. Detail members might act on their own initiative or the SL/OIC might direct detail members with specific orders if needed.

In most cases, the more the detail can operate with "free-flowing flexibility" the faster the detail will be able to get out of the danger area to safety. This means that each detail member will observe the situation and act on his/her own initiative, basing decisions off of the actions and re-actions of the threat and fellow detail members. For example, if there is simultaneously a need to clear a corner up ahead and help the VIP off the ground, if one detail

member decides to help the VIP, the other will push forward to clear the corner. If the first detail member pushes forward to the corner, the other will stop to help the VIP. This is much faster and more flexible than assigning fixed responsibilities or having the SL micromanage every action. The one general constant is that the OIC should remain with the VIP whenever possible. However, in some cases it might be necessary to break this rule as well.

Most of the VIP control techniques and evacuation techniques described in this section can apply to details of varying sizes. Many techniques can be used both by a singleton detail and also by a larger detail. As with most tactical techniques, the following pages offer only basic building blocks and examples of how to employ them. In order to be effective, you must practice these various techniques in a variety of realistic training scenarios. Only then will you be able to apply the appropriate combination of techniques for a given situation.

# VIP CONTROL TECHNIQUES

## Two-Handed Body Control

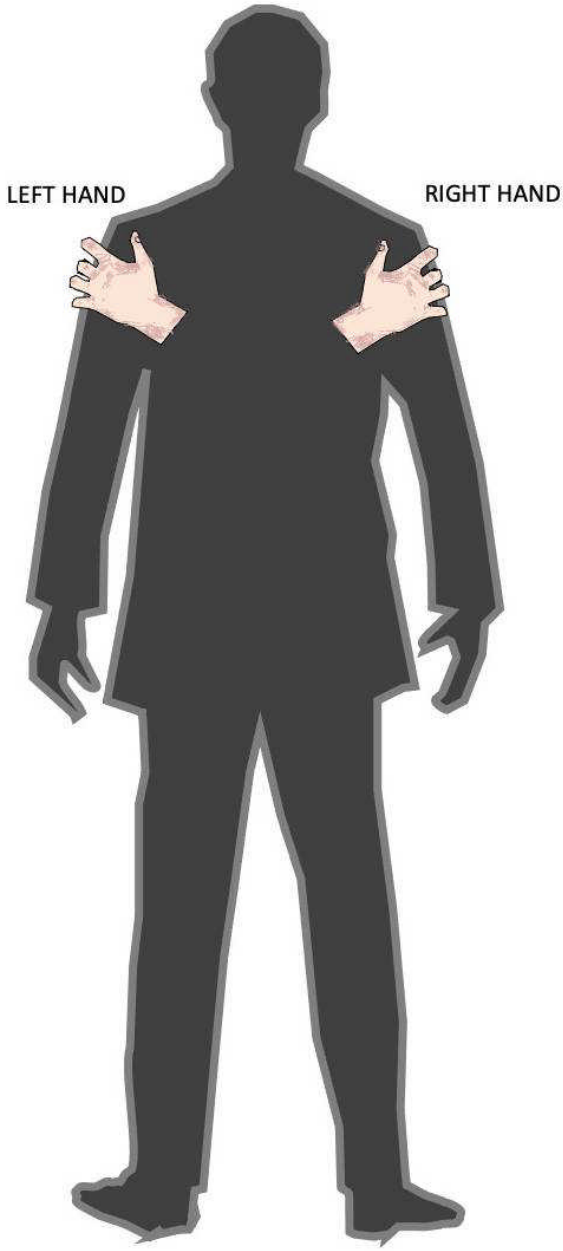
This control method requires the use of both hands. To perform this technique, bend your left arm at the elbow and place it across the VIP's shoulders or upper back. Apply strong and constant downward pressure to bend the VIP's upper body at the waist, keeping the VIP's head down. Maintain this constant downward pressure to prevent the VIP from standing upright during the evacuation. At the same time, use the right hand with the palm facing up to grab and secure the belt. If the VIP is not wearing a belt or you cannot grab the belt for some reason, grab whatever part of the VIP's clothing is the most secure. Stay as low as possible as you steer the VIP rapidly to safety.

To move the VIP, grip the belt tightly and pull up lightly as you direct the VIP forward in the desired direction. This handgrip will also allow you to easily control the VIP if he/she staggers or if you must help the VIP back up after a fall. Still, be extra careful not to lift the VIP completely off the ground as you push forward. Maintaining this position, use your entire body to provide cover as you egress out of the danger area. Be prepared to shift your body to the left or right to cover the VIP from flanking fire if necessary.

# VIP CONTROL TECHNIQUES

## Two-Handed Turn and Push

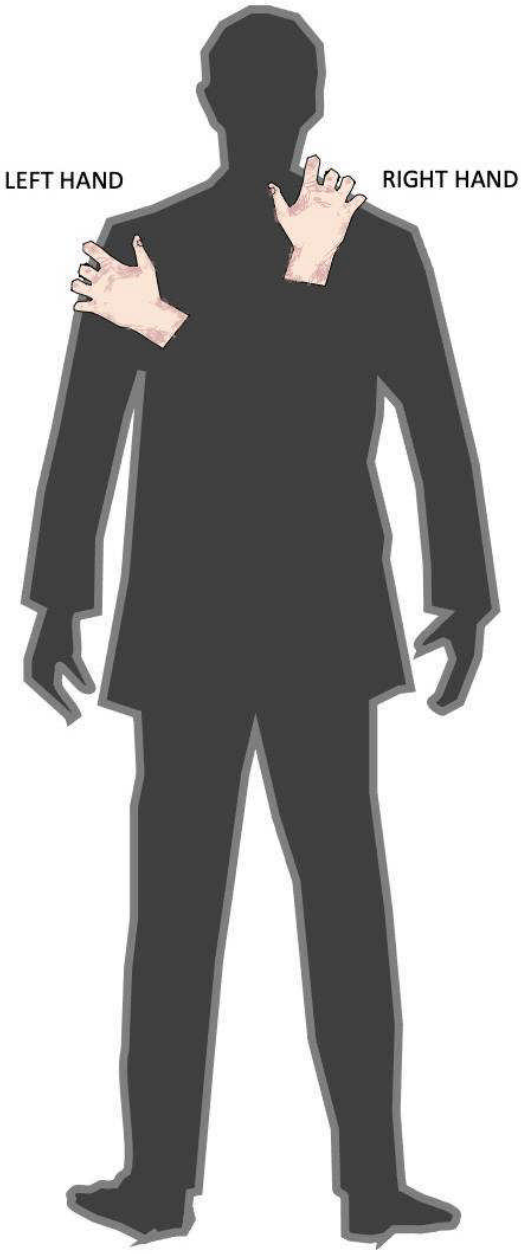
The turn and push is intended to quickly get the VIP out of the way in a safe direction while giving you space to deal with an incoming threat. This method also requires you to use both hands. To perform this technique, grab the VIP's upper arms from the outside with both hands and turn the VIP to the left or right. Immediately after turning, push the VIP firmly away from you. This force will propel the VIP out of the danger area quickly, giving you space to deal with the threat. You should note that the more force you apply with your push, the greater distance the VIP will be thrust away from you. It is also important to know that physical control of the VIP will be lost at that point. There is also that possibility that the VIP's to lose his/her balance when pushed forcefully; therefore, it is critical to use good judgement when applying this technique. The aim is to get the VIP away from an incoming threat as quickly as possible and you may judge that the risk of the VIP tripping or falling is outweighed by a life-threatening situation.



# VIP CONTROL TECHNIQUES

## Two-Handed Straight Drop

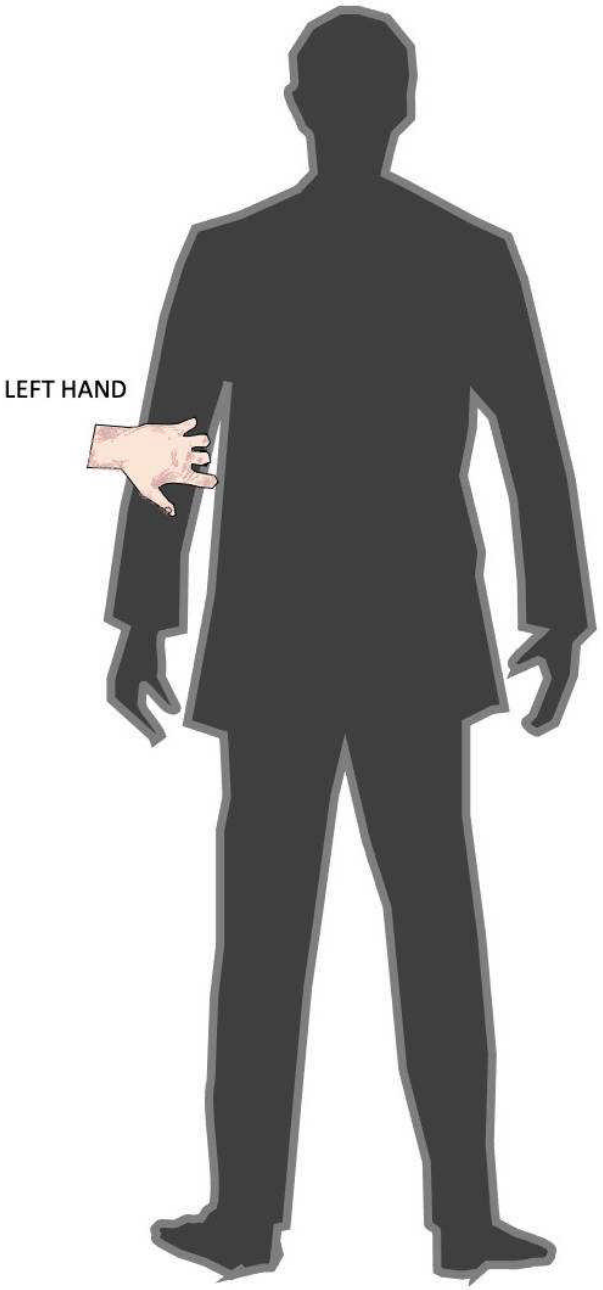
Like the turn and push technique, this technique is intended for a situation when the VIP is in serious danger and you must do whatever is necessary to get the VIP out of the way of an incoming threat. However, while the turn and push moves the VIP laterally, the straight drop will drop the VIP down to the ground quickly. This technique also requires you to use both hands. Using your right hand, grab the VIP's right shoulder at the base of the neck where the neck and the shoulder meet. Simultaneously secure the VIP's upper left arm. Immediately pull the VIP straight down and back towards the ground. Like the turn and push, this technique incurs some risk of harming the VIP as the VIP drops to the ground. Therefore, you should only use this technique in extreme cases when the VIP is in serious danger. For example, if the VIP suddenly comes under fire and bullets are cracking overhead, you will not have time to politely tell the VIP to get down, especially since the VIP may freeze, panic or try to run away. In this situation you must aggressively drop the VIP to the ground as fast as possible.



# VIP CONTROL TECHNIQUES

## Inverted Turn

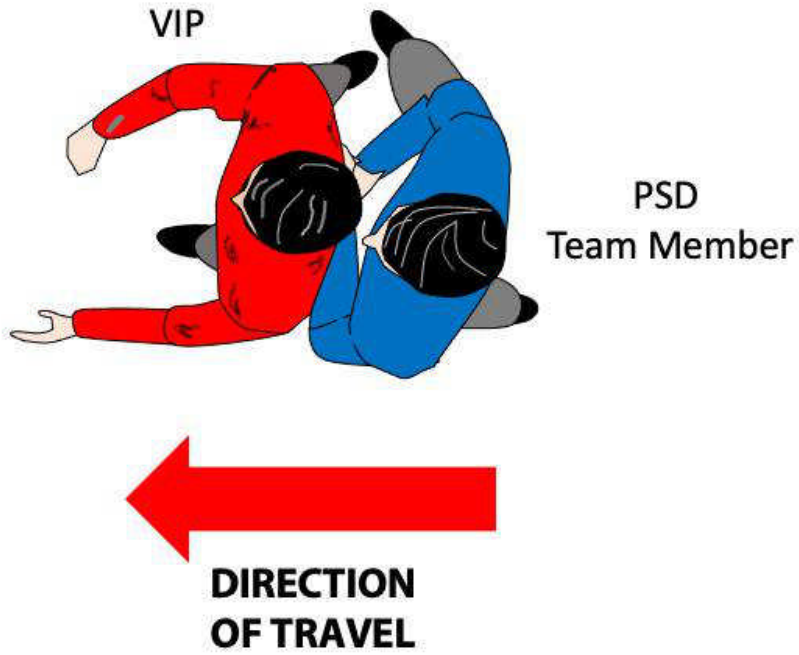
This technique allows you to move from a position behind the VIP to a position in front of the VIP. There are any number of reasons you might choose to do this. A threat might appear to the front and you will need to place yourself between the threat and the VIP. Or, you might need to move in front to quickly guide the VIP to safety. This method requires you to use only one hand, which means you can have your weapon drawn in the other hand if needed. To execute this technique, invert your left/weak hand with the thumb pointed down and slide it forward on the inside of the VIP's elbow. Firmly pull your arm outward and around in an arc to swing the VIP to the left as you step forward in front of the VIP. At this point you can either keep distance from the VIP to address a threat, or you can maintain physical contact with the VIP. To maintain contact, keep hold of the VIP's elbow after swinging him/her around. Then slide your hand down to the VIP's wrist and direct it toward your middle of your back towards your belt. Instruct the VIP to grab hold. You can now tow the VIP around behind you while keeping your weapon drawn with the opposite hand.



# VIP CONTROL TECHNIQUES

## Two-Handed Push Evacuation

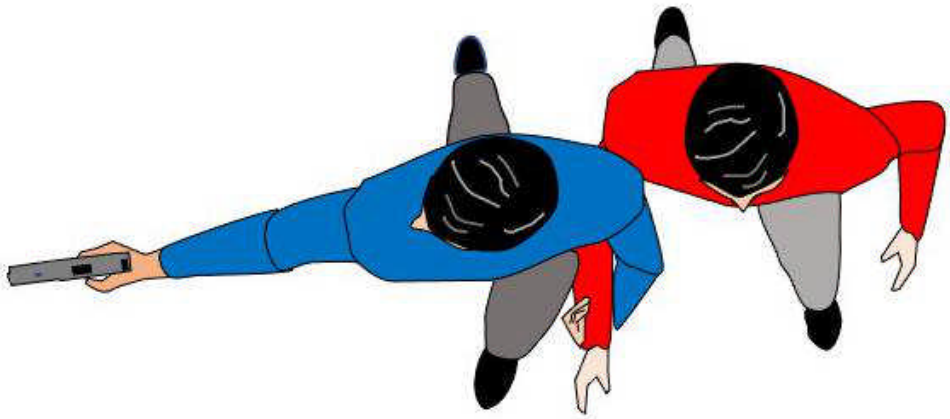
Like all single person techniques, you may execute this technique as a singleton detail or as part of a larger protective detail. Controlling the VIP with two hands from behind gives you the best control over the VIP but prevents you from drawing your weapon. This technique can also expose the VIP to threats from the front. Therefore, it is best to use this technique when helping the VIP to move quickly away from a threat that is to the rear of the formation. It is also safer to use this technique when part of a larger detail since other detail members can draw weapons if needed to deal with threats. To control the VIP, use the Two-Handed Body Control technique explained earlier in this section. Use one arm to secure and push downward on the VIP's upper shoulder area while you grab and secure the belt or waist area with the other hand. The palm of the hand securing the waistline should be facing up.



# VIP CONTROL TECHNIQUES

## Flank Protection Evacuation

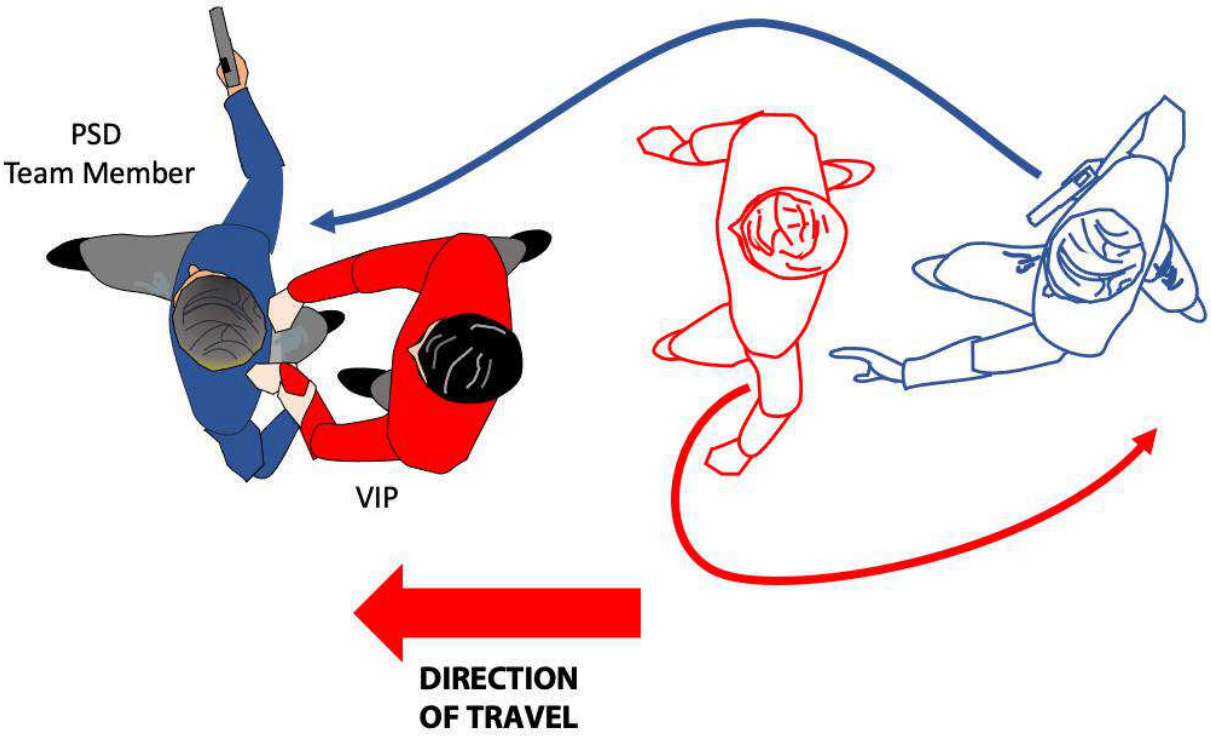
This technique allows you to move quickly with the VIP with your weapon drawn, while providing coverage to either side of the VIP/formation. Reach your arm around the VIP's arm and maintain firm control of the VIP's body movement by pinning the VIP's arm against your side. Although, the preferred technique is pining the VIP's arm underneath your arm, you can also simply grab any part of the arm or piece of clothing that is accessible. This technique provides less control but allows you to employ your weapon and deal with threats to the left or right. This technique may be used by a singleton detail or as part of a larger detail.



# VIP CONTROL TECHNIQUES

## One-Handed Pull Evacuation

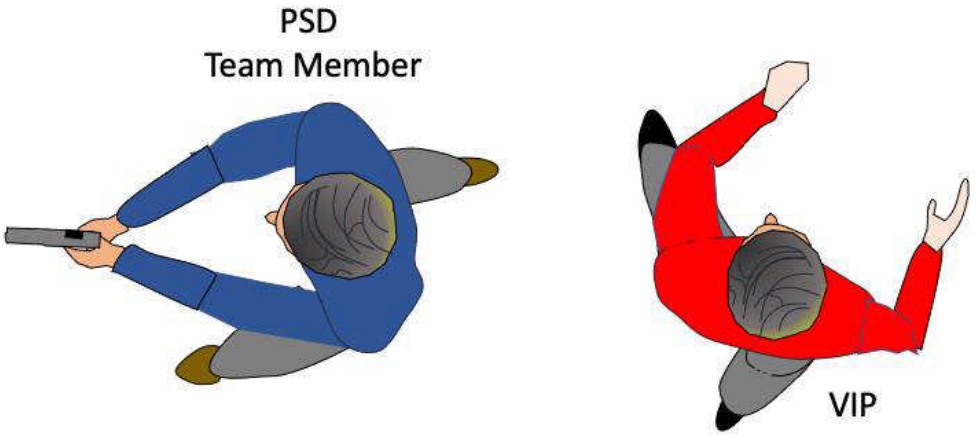
To execute this evacuation technique, you will start by employing the Inverted Turn VIP control technique from earlier in this section. From a position behind the VIP, execute the Inverted Turn and swing the VIP around behind you as you step forward. Maintain control of the VIP's wrist and guide it to your own belt. This technique allows you to use your weapon and also shields the VIP from threats to the front. Therefore, you should generally transition to this technique whenever a threat appears to the front. When employing this technique, it is also possible to let go of the VIP's wrist after instructing the VIP to hold on tightly to your belt. While this offers less positive control and the VIP might panic and let go, it will allow you to use both hands momentarily. As with other evacuation techniques, you may execute the one-handed pull as a singleton detail or as part of a larger detail.



# VIP CONTROL TECHNIQUES

## Brief Separation

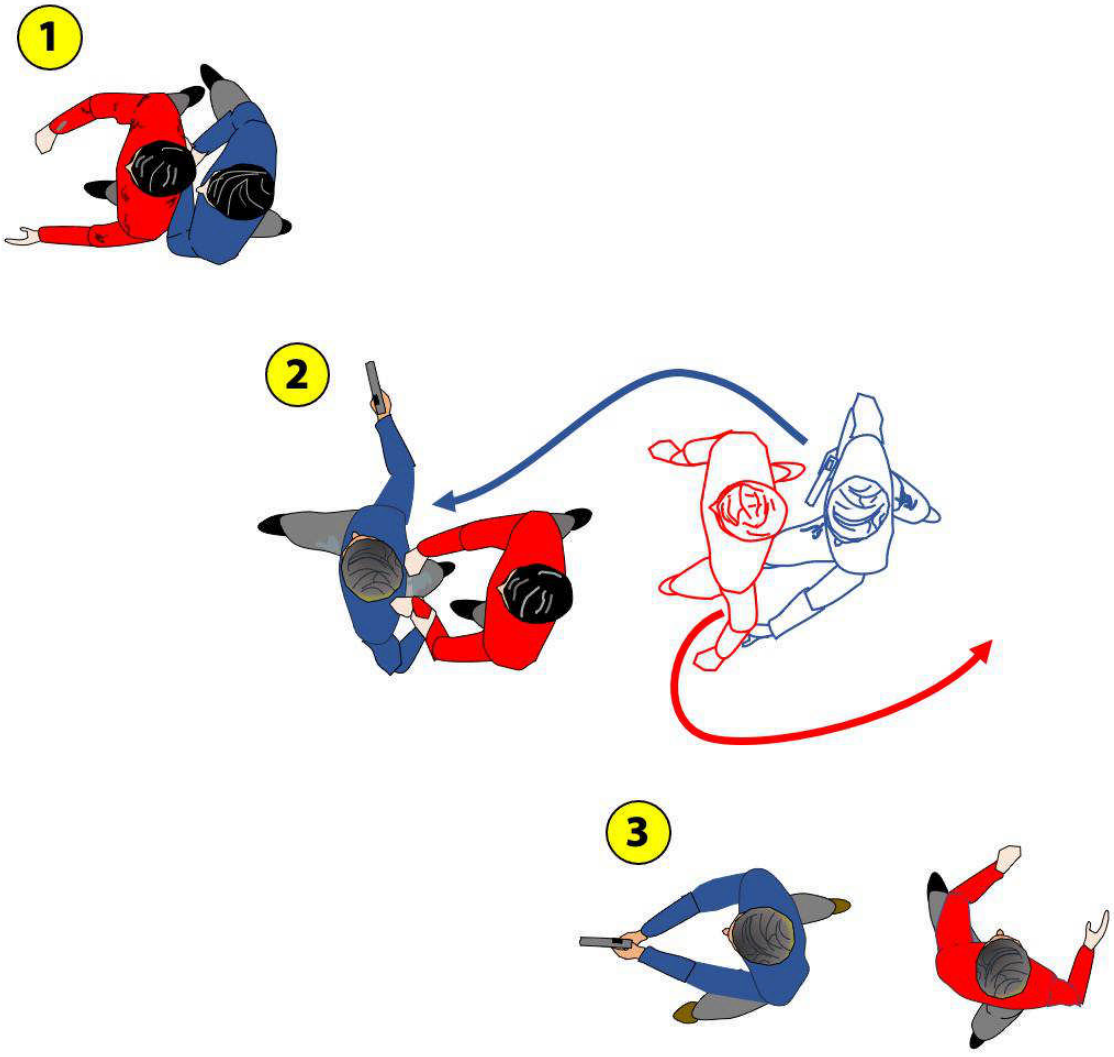
In some cases, the OIC or detail member controlling the VIP might need to let go of the VIP and separate briefly in order to deal with a threat or engage targets. The detail member might also need to break away to quickly scout ahead for danger, clear around a corner or check that a room is safe before entering. While brief separation might sometimes be necessary, it places the VIP at increased risk. Ideally, the VIP should not be left alone for long. The brief separation technique becomes less necessary with a larger detail since the OIC can remain with the VIP while other detail members separate to deal with threats.



# VIP CONTROL TECHNIQUES

## Combination of Evacuation Techniques

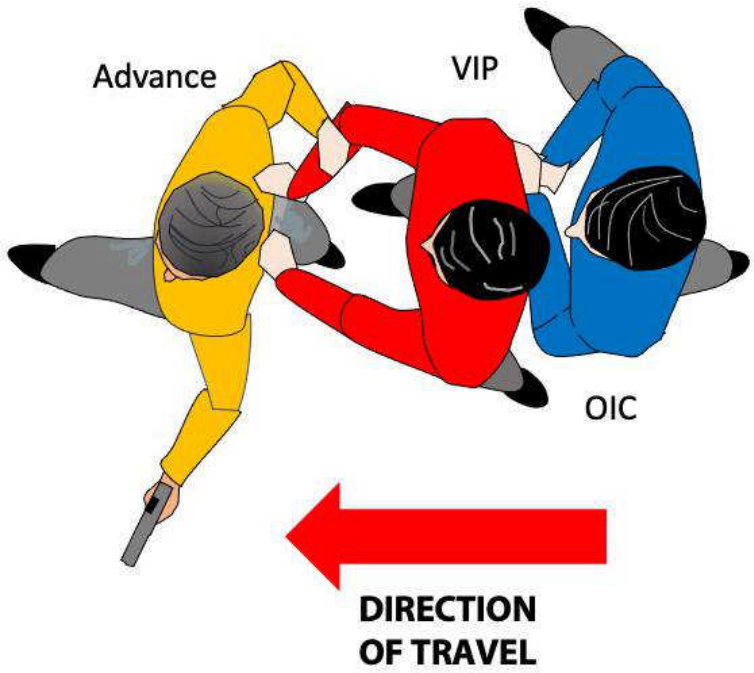
When conducting an evacuation, it is likely that you will need to combine a number of the techniques just described as you react to the situation. For example, you might begin with the two-handed push technique as you move the VIP quickly away from a threat. However, before entering the safe haven, you will transition to the one-handed pull to allow you to be the first into the room. Once in the safe haven, you might need to separate from the VIP briefly to engage targets, check the room for threats, close doors or provide rear security. When it is time to move, you will need to take physical control of the VIP once again. These principles apply to both a singleton detail and a larger detail.



# MOVEMENT FORMATIONS

## Two-Person Contact Evacuation

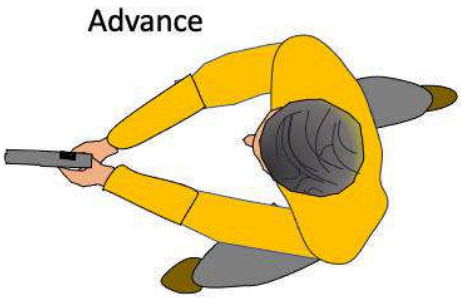
If you have at least two people in the detail, you may want to execute a two-person contact evacuation. This calls for two detail members to maintain physical contact with the VIP. The OIC executes a two-handed body control technique from the rear while the Advance executes a one-handed pull from the front. This technique offers excellent control of the VIP and provides good body coverage from the front and rear. However, moving in this formation can be slightly slower and difficult to coordinate. It is possible that in a high stress situation, people might step on each other's feet and stumble or trip.

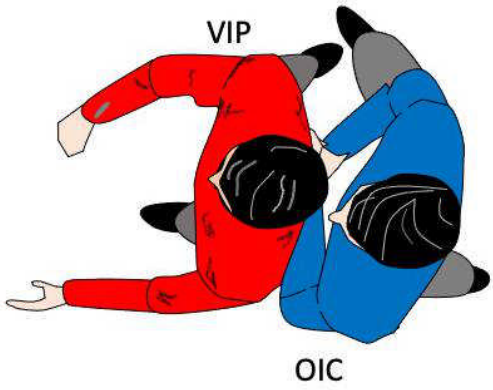


# MOVEMENT FORMATIONS

## Two-Person Advance Lead Evacuation

If you have at least two people in the detail, you can execute an Advance Lead technique. The OIC maintains control of the VIP using a two-handed body control technique. The Advance then breaks away and pushes forward. This technique can be useful if you need to scout for a safe area or check for potential threats up ahead. It is important however for the advance to remain in visual contact with the rest of the detail.

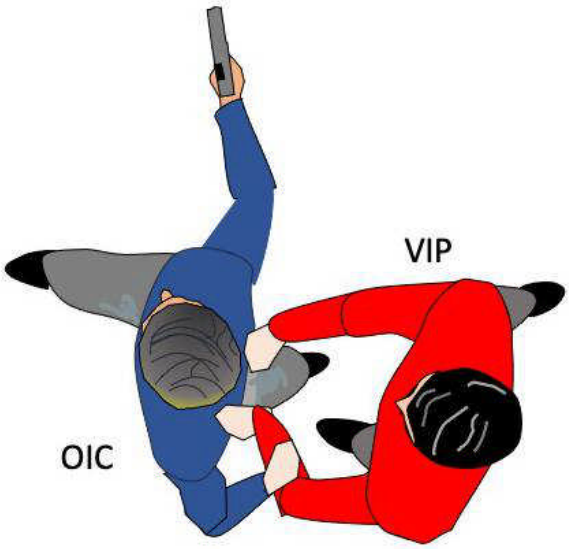


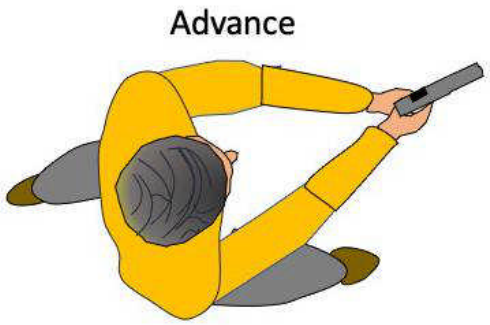



# MOVEMENT FORMATIONS

## One-Handed Pull with Rear Security

Another option with a detail that has two or more members is for the OIC to use the one-handed pull while other detail members provide coverage to the rear or flanks. This technique can be useful in a situation when there are threats both to the rear and to the front. The technique also allows both/all detail members to have their weapons drawn.



# ROOM CLEARING
# Two-Person Escort Detail

The most basic starting point for understanding protection room clearing tactics is how to move through two rooms with a two-person detail. A two-person detail consists of the Officer-in-Charge (OIC) who is primarily responsible for the VIP, and the advance. With only two members, the detail will be at increased risk and each member will need to assume multiple responsibilities and cover multiple angles or danger areas simultaneously. With a two-person detail, you will have to give up something to gain something.

The most basic way to understand this concept is in movement formations. If the primary threat is to the front, the advance should move ahead while the OIC controls the VIP in the rear. If the primary threat is to the rear, the OIC may need to lead the way with the VIP while the advance stays behind to provide rear security. In some situations, the best option might be for both detail members to position the VIP in a safe place and momentarily separate from the VIP to deal with a threat. All of these factors affect how the detail will clear a given room.

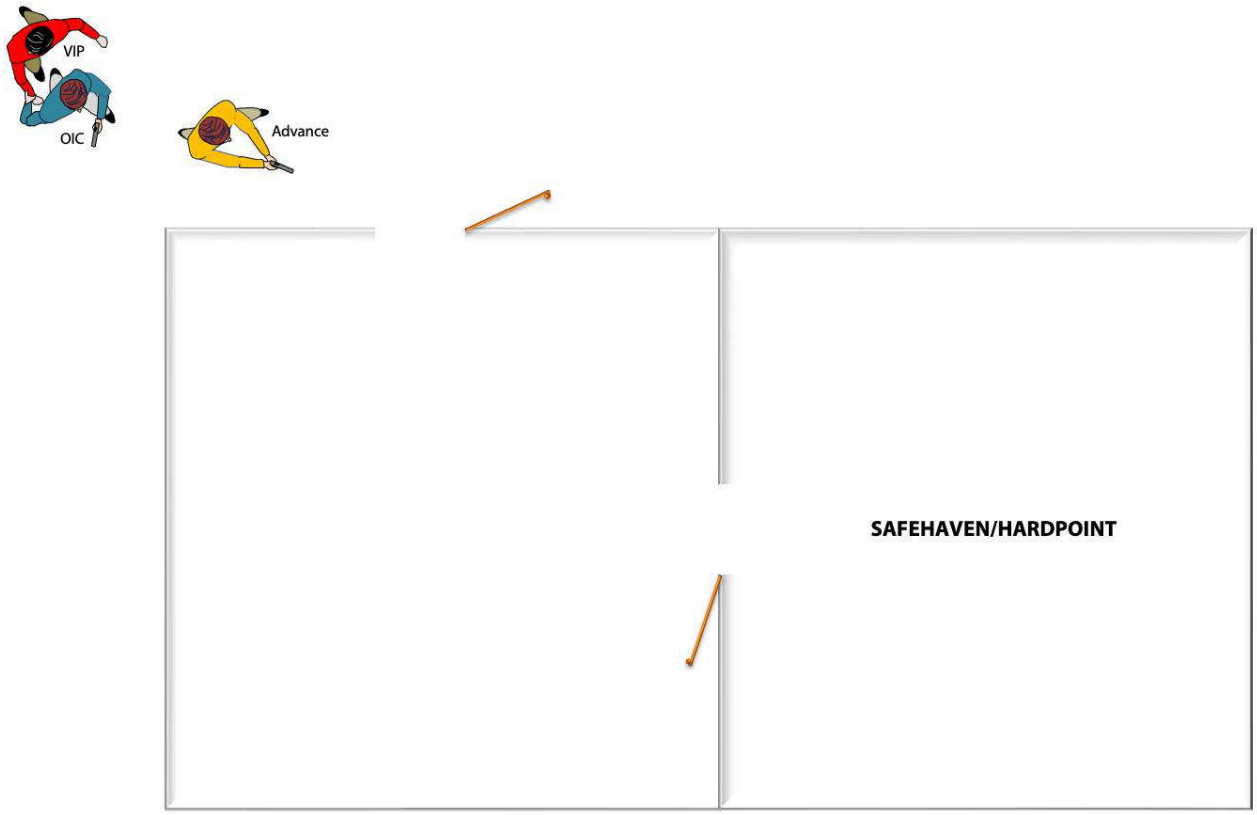
When clearing each room, the detail can employ either immediate or delayed entry techniques. Immediate entry calls for the entire detail to enter the room immediately and is generally the best option if the greatest threat is from the rear. However, if there is a greater threat to the front, the detail might want to employ delayed entry, with the OIC and VIP waiting at a safe distance while the advance moves ahead and employs a singleton clearing technique to ensure the next room is safe.

The situation and direction of threat will also determine what control technique the OIC decides to use. Generally, the OIC wants to position between the VIP and the most likely threat. A one-handed-pull allows the OIC to position in front of the VIP while a two-handed-push allows the OIC to screen the VIP from behind. A flank protection technique allows the OIC to screen the VIP from either the right or left side. The OIC can switch between control techniques based on the situation. In some situations, a given control technique might also make it easier to move the VIP quickly and efficiently.

# TWO PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 1: Advance Prepares to Clear the First Room

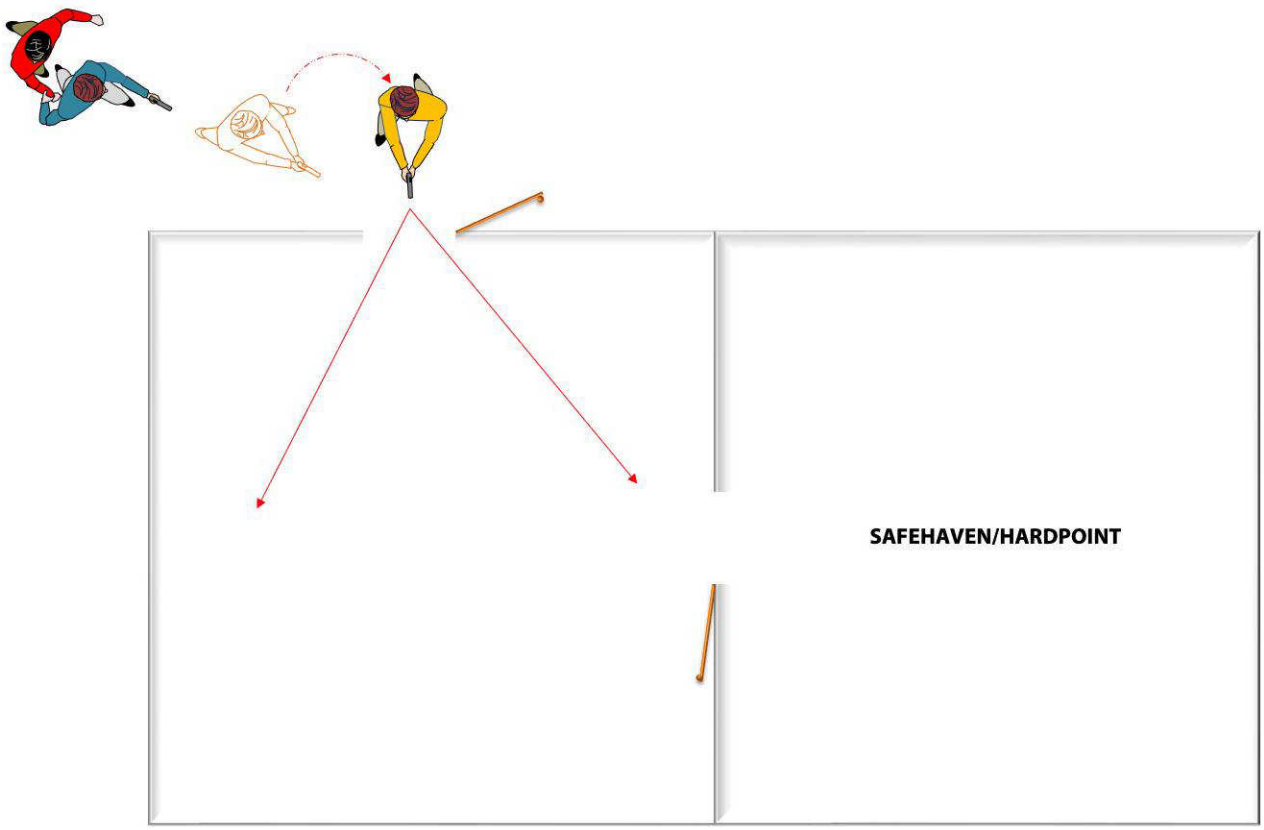
This scenario begins with the primary threat to the rear. Therefore, the detail will conduct an immediate entry into the first room in order to get the VIP out of harm's way as quickly as possible. The detail is assuming risk by rushing the VIP into the room, but the OIC determines that risk is lower than leaving the VIP exposed outside. The advance will move slightly ahead and prepare to enter the first room. The OIC and VIP follow behind. In this example, the OIC has chosen to employ the one-handed pull evacuation technique to improve speed of movement while keeping the weapon drawn. However, in this situation the OIC might also choose the two-handed push technique to enhance body coverage from the rear.



# TWO PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 2: Advance Swings Out to Clear the Doorway

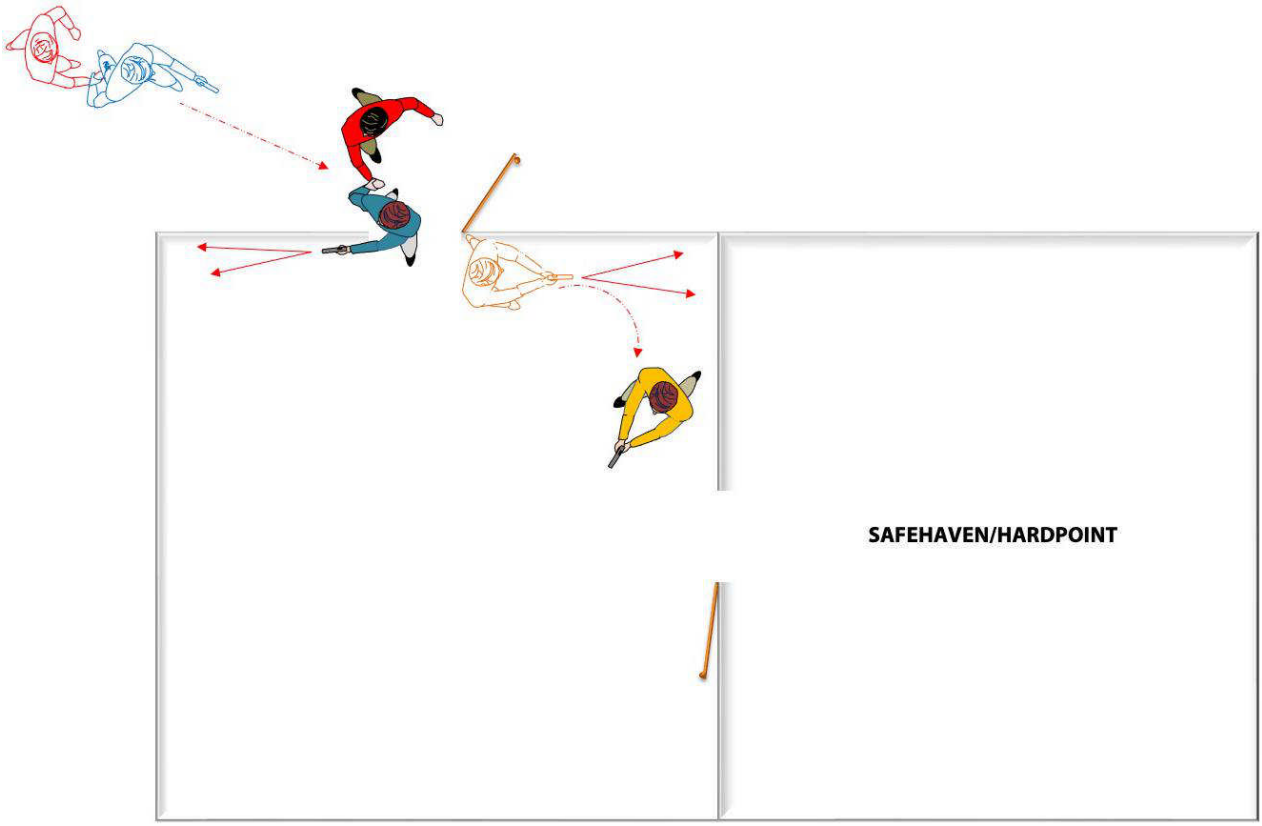
Prior to entering the room, the advance will swing out in an arc to clear the doorway and begin clearing the interior of the room from the outside. The OIC will remain behind and be prepared to quickly follow the advance into the room to execute the immediate entry. The OIC should maintain positive control of the VIP at all times and can adjust body control techniques as needed based on the threat. However, the OIC will need to transition to the one-handed pull technique prior to entering the room.



# TWO PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 3: Detail Enters the Room and Clears the Corners

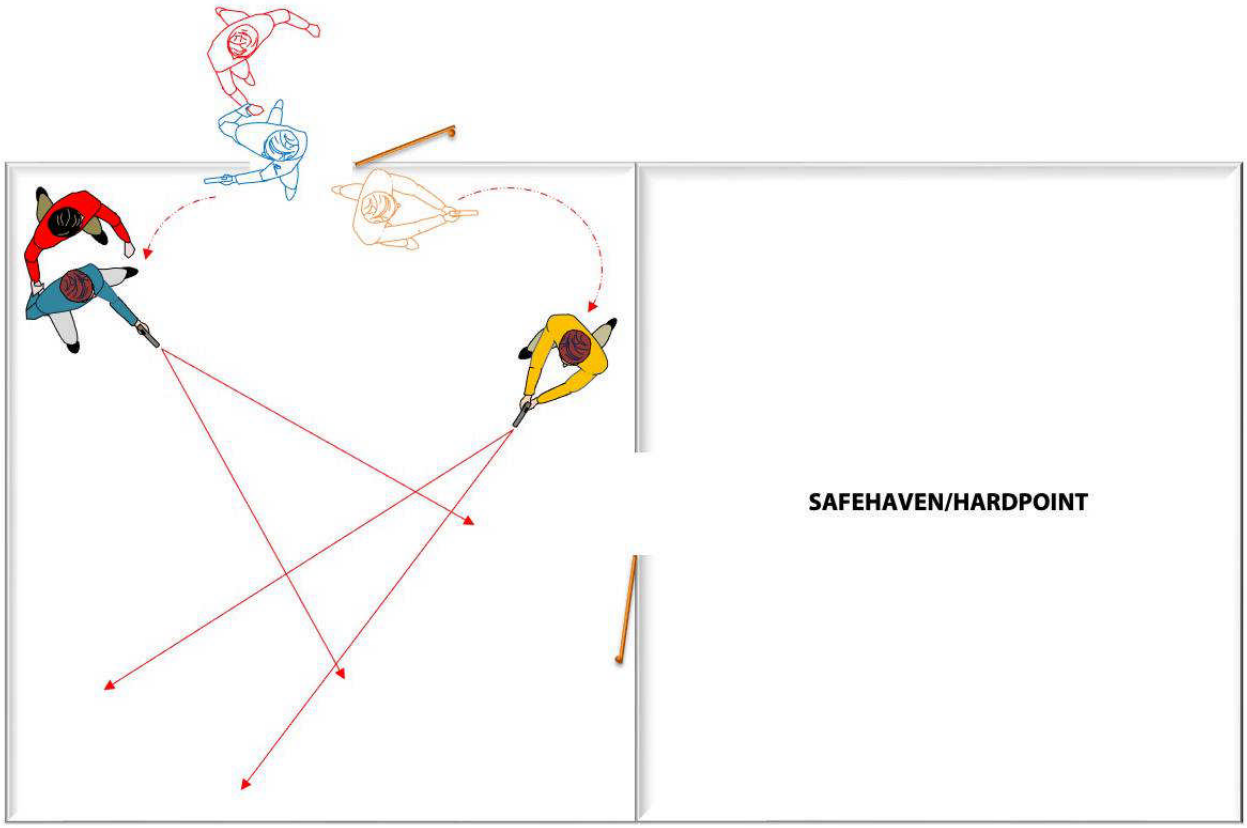
The advance will enter the room first and turn either right or left based on assessment of the situation and the greatest threat. The advance will then scan inward towards the center of the room while moving to a domination point. The OIC will follow close behind the advance and move in the opposite direction, clearing the corner before exposing the VIP to the room if possible. Should the advance encounter a threat in the room, the OIC must be prepared to divert the VIP away from the threat and execute a contingency evacuation plan as needed.



# TWO PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 4: Detail Dominates the Room and Screens the VIP

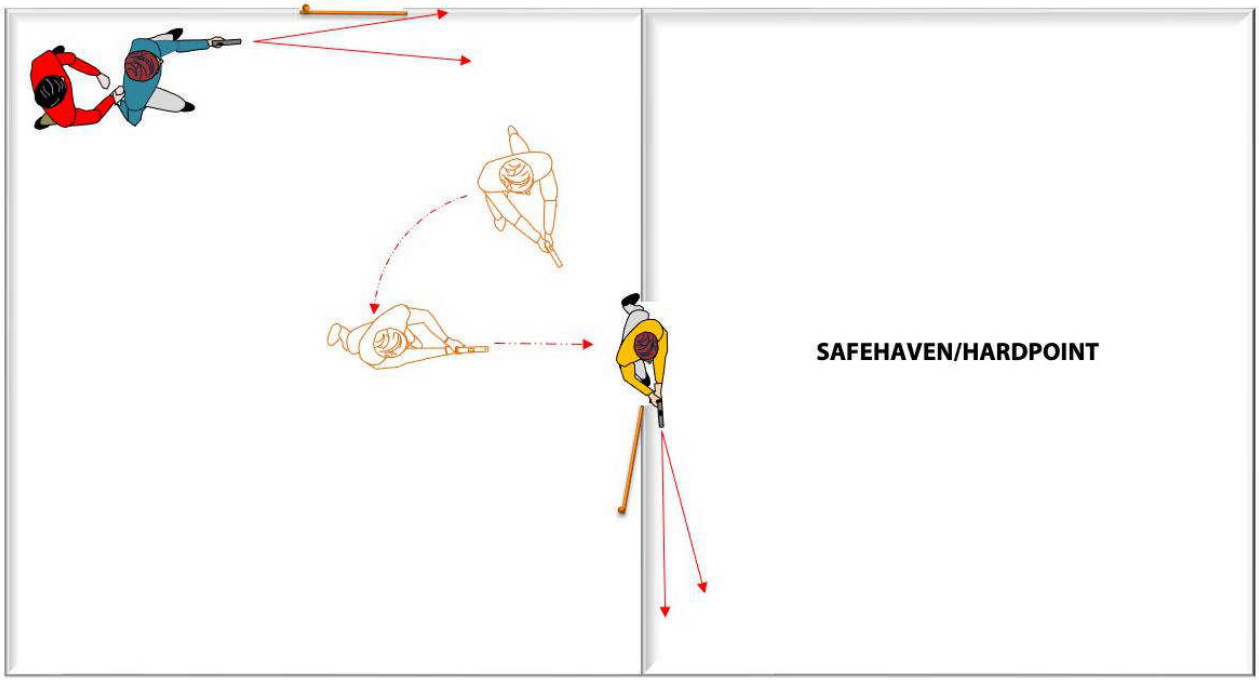
The advance will adjust his/her domination point as needed to ensure the room is clear and safe for the VIP. The advance should be prepared to move deeper into the room and clear behind furniture or other danger areas as needed. In this scenario, the main danger area is an open door so the advance must be prepared to quickly clear the doorway to protect the VIP. The OIC will move to a domination point that offers the best protection for the VIP. This usually calls for tucking the VIP into a corner of the room. However, with only a two-person detail, the OIC must be prepared to assist the advance in clearing the room is well.



# TWO PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 5: Advance Conducts Singleton Delayed Entry

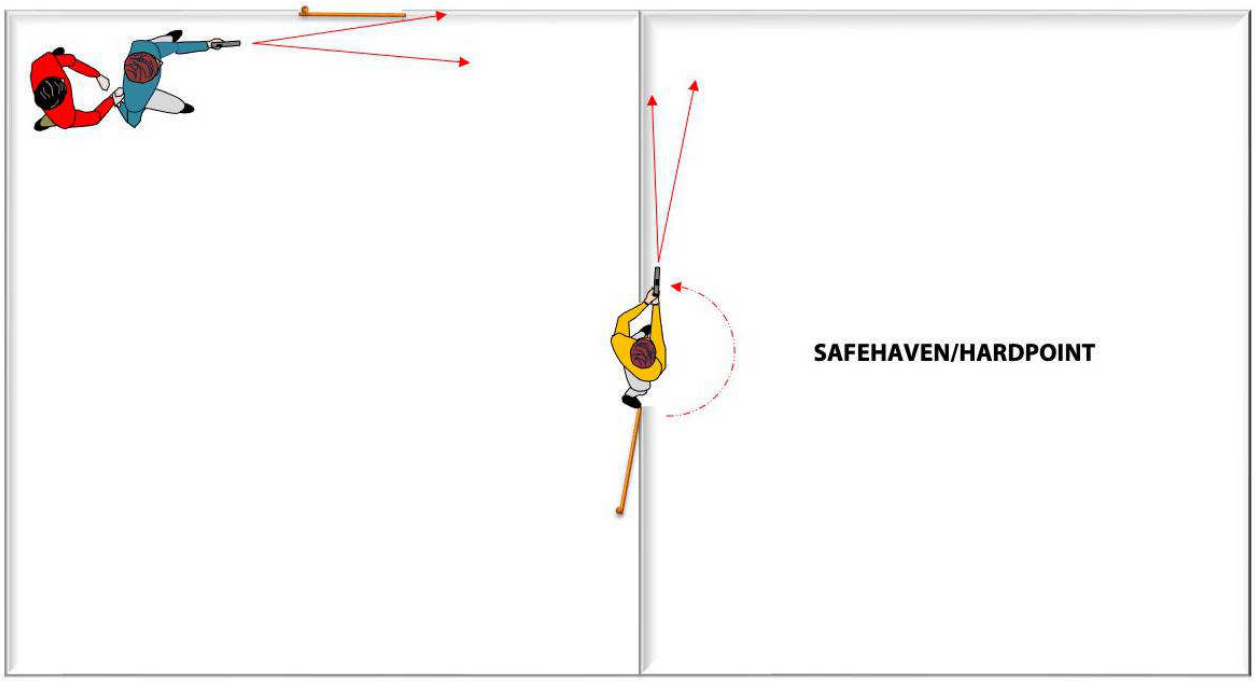
Upon entering the room, either the advance or the OIC will close the door and lock it if possible. At this point, the detail determines that the greatest threat is to the front, so instead of conducting another immediate entry, the OIC will stay back while the advance moves forward to conduct a singleton delayed entry. Either team member can give the command or hand/arm signal to conduct a delayed entry. When a conducting delayed entry, the OIC will not move forward until the advance signals that it is safe to do so. In this scenario, the advance decides to employ a quick-clear technique, clearing the next room from the doorway. The advance swings out to clear the center of the room from the outside and then moves directly towards the door, plants his/her feet short of the doorway, quickly leaning in to clear the first corner from outside the room. When clearing the corners from the doorway it is important to expose as little of the body as possible and quickly move out of the doorway (either into the next room or back into the previous room) as soon as the corners are clear. In the example below, the advance decides to clear the right corner first.



# TWO PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 6: Advance Pivots to Clear Both Corners

After clearing one corner using the quick-clear technique, the advance will rapidly pivot the torso in the opposite direction to clear the other corner as quickly as possible, bringing the weapon through in the most direct path close to the body, not arcing the weapon around in a circle away from the body. The OIC will monitor the advance's progress while maintaining rear security on the locked door.



# TWO PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 7: Advance Clears Deeper into the Room if Needed

After clearing the corners, the advance will either move forward to clear deeper into the room or back away into the previous room. In this example, the advance decides to move forward and penetrate deeper into the next room. This will be necessary if there are obstacles or pieces of furniture in the room that a threat could be hiding behind. Once the OIC sees the advance move into the next room, the OIC should confirm positive control of the VIP and move to a position closer to the door the advance just entered. This is to ensure the detail maintains team integrity and does not become too separated. If the advance moves too far away from the OIC and VIP and loses contact completely, the process of linking back up can prove dangerous since the OIC might mistake the advance for a threat. Also, in some room/building configurations, if the advance loses track of the location of the VIP, the advance may shoot in an unsafe direction where bullets could pass through the wall and accidentally hit the VIP. For these reasons, it is good for the detail not to become too separated and for the OIC to close the distance whenever the advance moves out of visual contact. However, there might be some situations where the OIC will choose to remain in place and not close the distance in order to better protect the VIP.

# TWO PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 8: Advance Signals Detail to Enter the Safehaven

Once the advance determines that the next room is clear and provides a suitable safehaven, he she will exit back out of the room and signal for the OIC and VIP to enter. If the detail has become separated beyond visual contact, it is important for the advance and OIC to communicate and utilize signals as needed when linking back up to ensure they do not accidentally shoot each other. The advance will signal for the OIC and VIP to enter the safehaven. As the OIC and VIP enter, the advance will pick up rear security. The advance can do this from the doorway or move completely back into the previous room as in the example below. The disadvantage of remaining in the doorway is that it might not offer a clear and safe field of fire for the advance and can also impede the VIP's movement into the room. However, remaining in the doorway offers some degree of cover/concealment for the advance and can be a quicker option if the doorway is wide enough for the VIP to pass through unimpeded.

# TWO PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

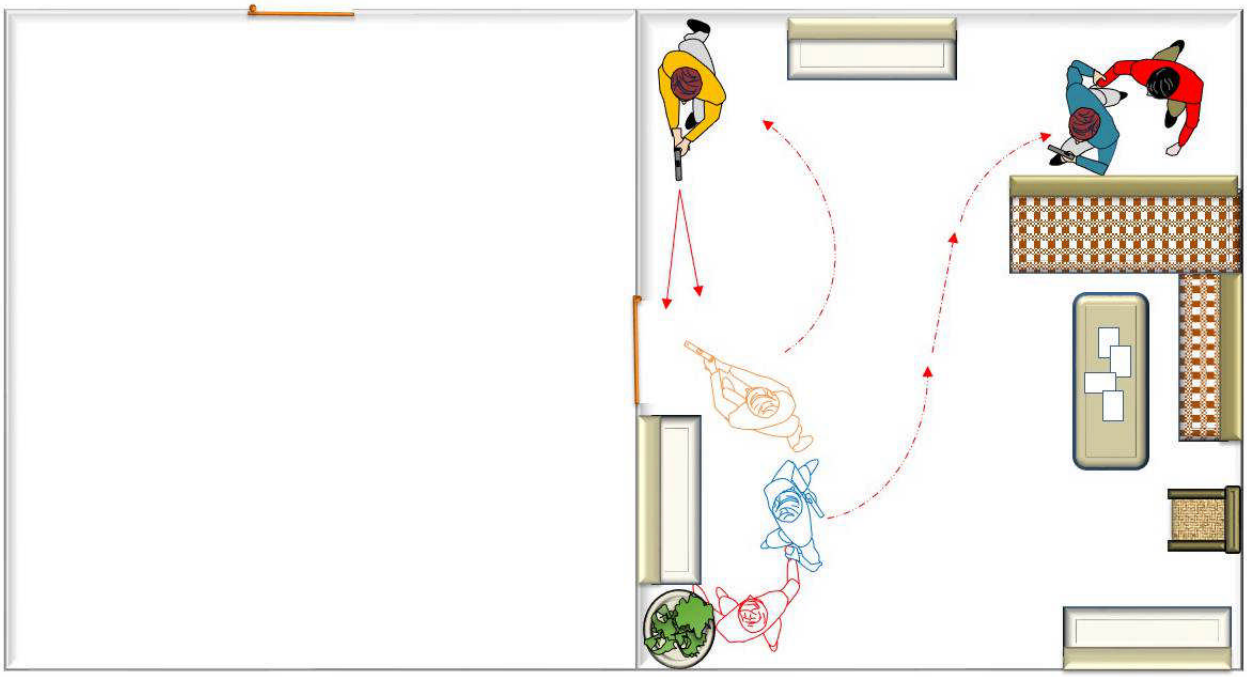
## STEP 9: OIC and VIP Enter the Safehaven

Upon receiving the signal from the advance, the OIC will guide the VIP into the safehaven. Even though the advance has already cleared the room and determined it to be safe, it is still a good idea for the OIC to remain alert and use proper clearing techniques when entering the room for added safety and security. Upon entering the safehaven the OIC will immediately begin scanning the room to determine the safest place to position the VIP. The advance will maintain rear security until the rest of the detail is safely in the next room and then follow behind, closing and locking the door if possible.

# TWO PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 10: Detail Assumes Hasty Defensive Position

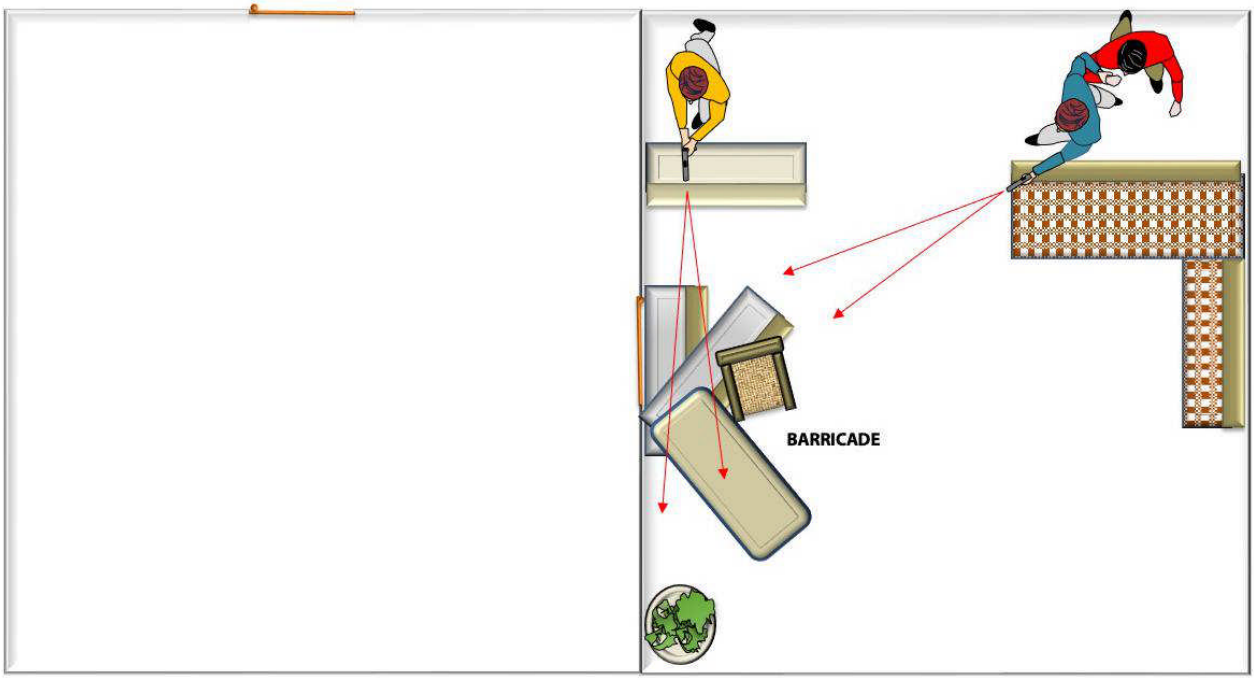
Once the detail is inside the safehaven and the door is locked, the advance and OIC will take up defensive positions inside the room to best protect the VIP and cover any entrances to the room. The example below is just one defensive option and the precise positioning inside the room will depend on the specific situation. The example below also shows furniture in the room since the layout of furniture will influence defensive positioning. As soon as possible, the OIC should conduct a survey of the VIP to check for physical injury and administer medical treatment if needed. The OIC should also check the VIPs psychological state and offer water and psychological support if needed to keep the VIP calm.



# TWO PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 11: Detail Improves Deliberate Defense

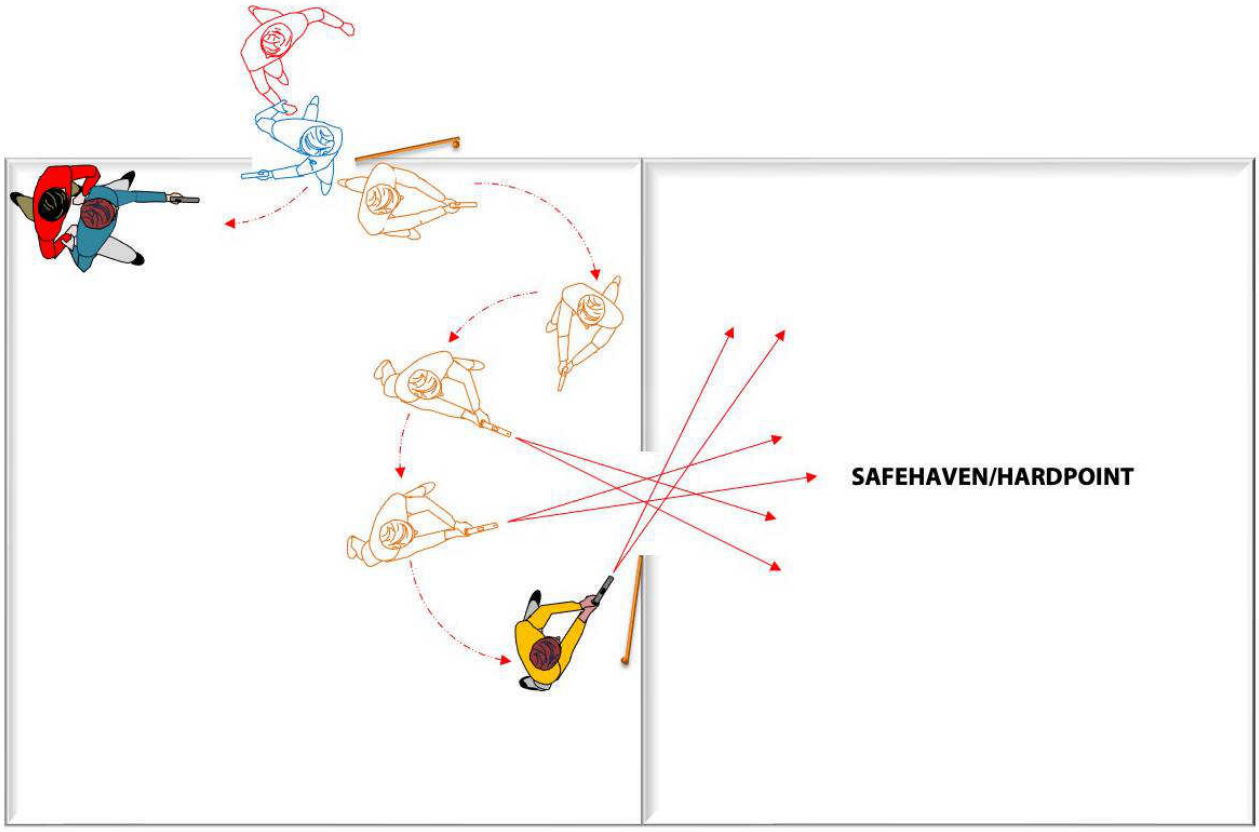
As time permits, the detail should begin to reinforce the defensive position in the safehaven by moving furniture around in the room to barricade entry doors, windows and established covered fighting positions within the room. At the same time, the detail should be establishing communications and coordinating linkup with additional supporting elements coming to help. The detail should also establish contingency plans in case they need to depart the safehaven and seek an alternate safe location.



# TWO PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED SWEEP

## STEP 1: Advance Performs Initial Sweep of the Door

In the previous scenario, the advance employed a quick clear technique to clear the safehaven. However, the detail can use any combination of singleton or two-person delayed or immediate entry techniques to clear each room depending on the situation. For more detailed coverage of each clearing technique, see our books on single-person and two-person CQB. In this example, the advance decides to execute a sweep of the door to minimize exposure and clear as much of the room as possible from the outside. Before executing the sweep, the advance must first signal the OIC to hold position. The advance will then sweep around in a wide arc, watching for threats.



# TWO PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED SWEEP

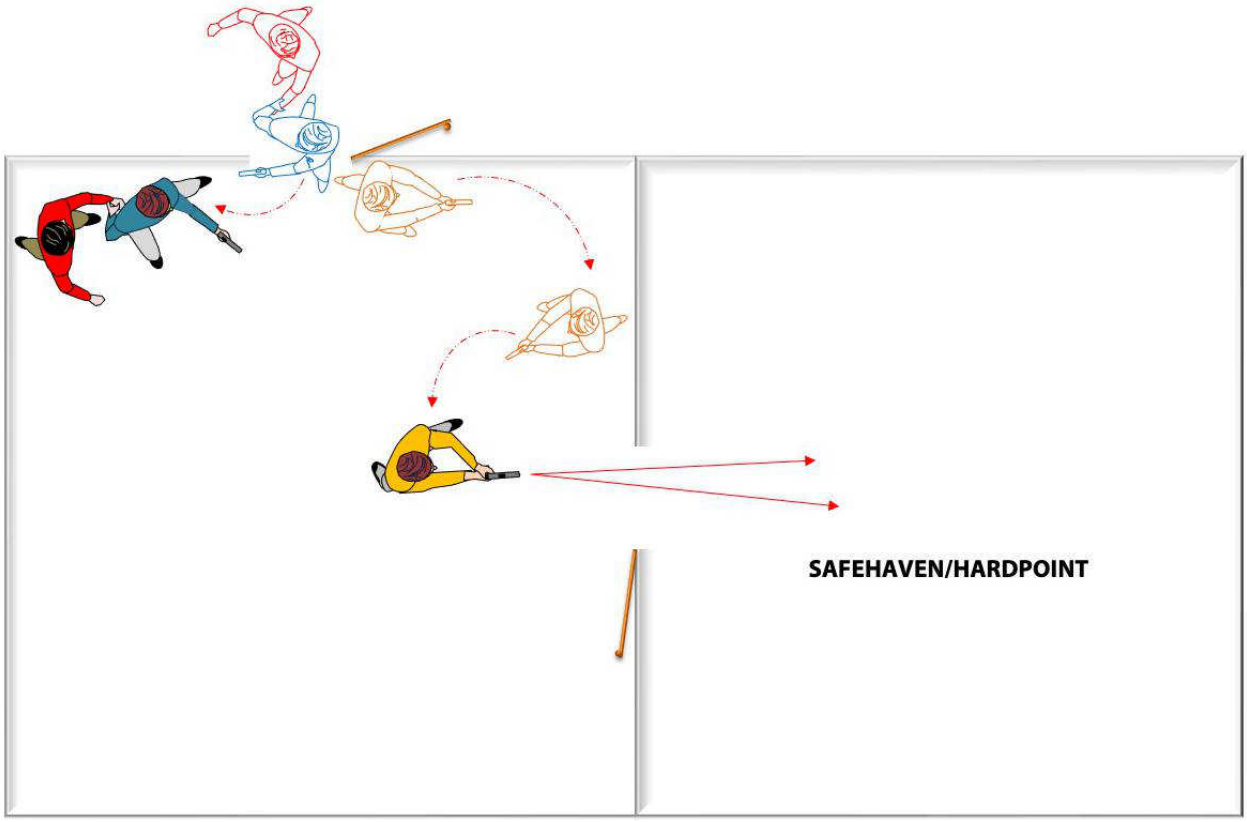
## STEP 2: Advance Conducts Half-Sweep and Enters

After conducting the initial sweep, the advance will sweep back in the opposite direction while continuing to watch for threats, ending up in a position facing the door. At this point the advance will move directly towards the door to enter the room. In this example, the advance decides to enter the room using a shallow-entry, reverse-180 technique. The advance enters the room turning to clear one corner, then quickly pivots 180-degrees to clear the opposite corner. If the advance is able to squat or take a knee after pivoting, this can make the technique more effective. Meanwhile, the OIC and VIP should monitor the advance's progress and be prepared to more once the advance signals that it is safe to do so. The detail then proceeds using the same steps described in previous techniques, establishing defensive positions in the room, and barricading the door as needed.

# TWO PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO IMMEDIATE ENTRY

## STEP 1: Advance Prepares for Immediate Entry

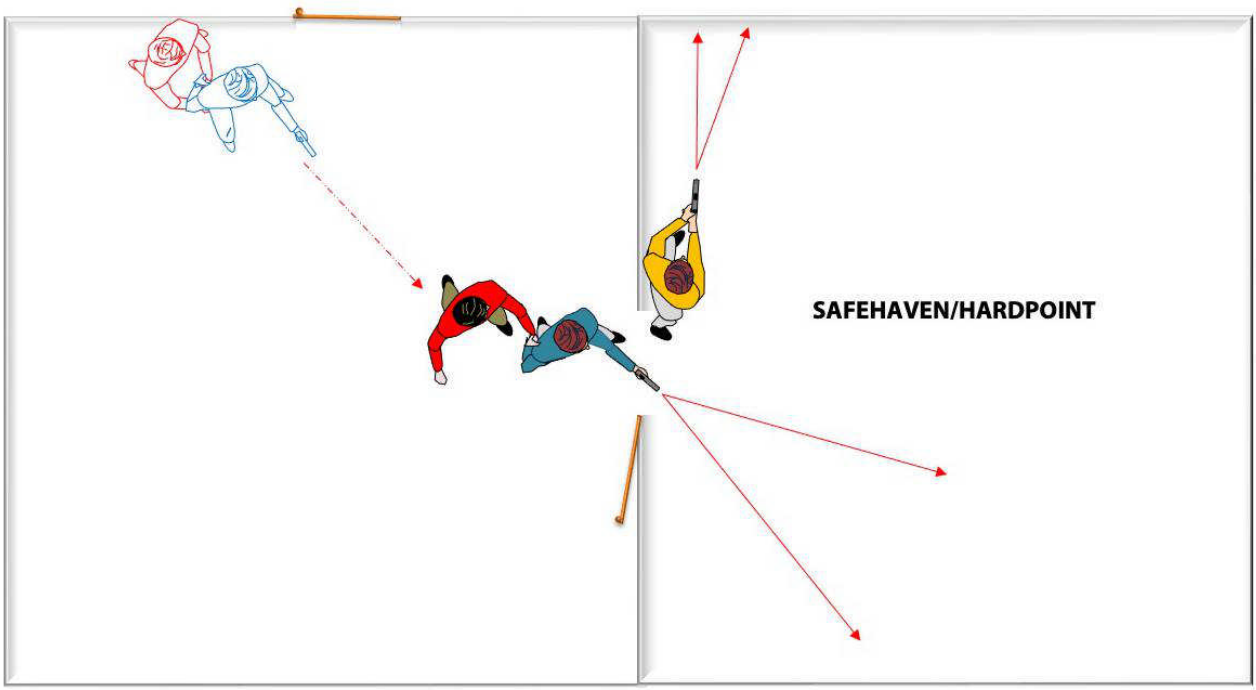
In this scenario, after executing an immediate entry of the first room, the detail determines that most serious threat is still to the rear. Perhaps there are threats in pursuit of the VIP. In this case, instead of conducting a delayed entry of the second room, the detail will want to get into the next room as quickly as possible by conducting another immediate entry. The advance will initiate the clear by sweeping out and clearing the center of the room from the outside. The OIC will employ a one-handed pull evacuation technique and be prepared to enter the room right behind the advance.



# TWO PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO IMMEDIATE ENTRY

## STEP 2: Advance Clears One Corner

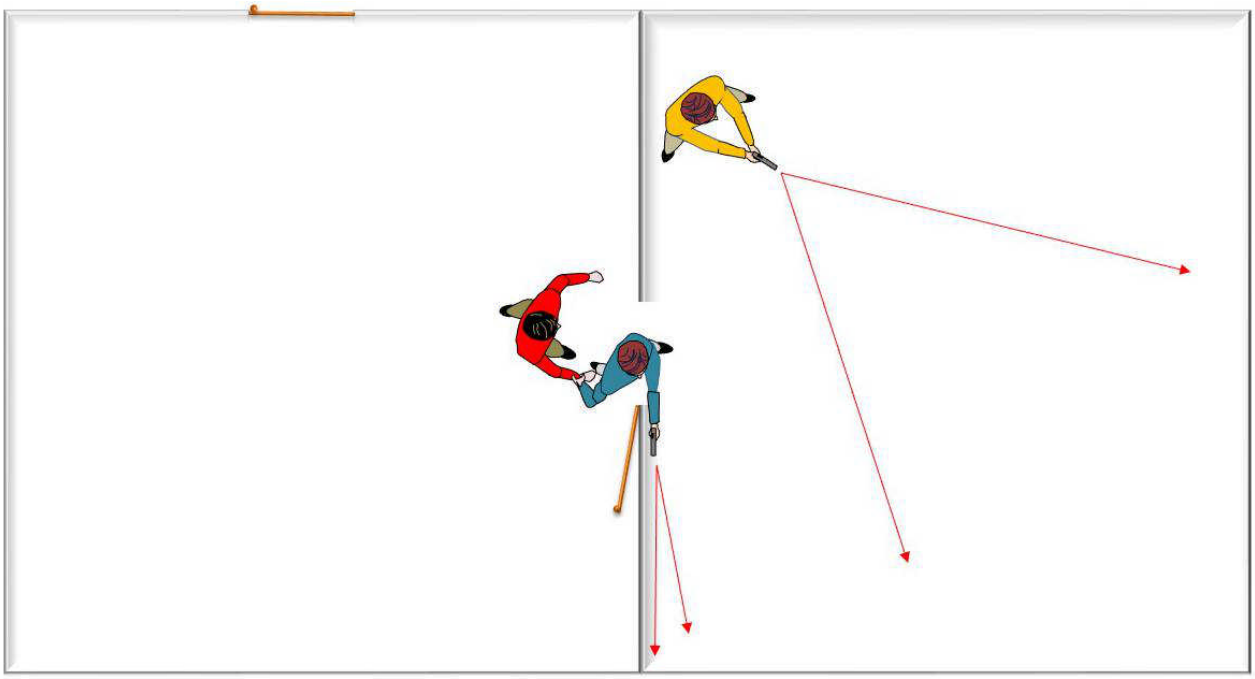
As the advance enters the room, he/she will quickly turn to clear one of the two corners. The OIC will follow directly behind with the VIP in tow and move in the opposite direction as the advance, scanning outward while moving into the room.



# TWO PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO IMMEDIATE ENTRY

## STEP 3: OIC Clears the Opposite Corner

Once breaking the threshold, the OIC should immediately turn to clear the corner, moving in the opposite direction as the advance. Meanwhile, the advance will continue moving into the room towards the domination point, scanning inward while moving.



# TWO PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO IMMEDIATE ENTRY

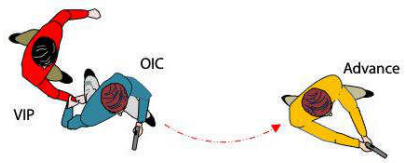
## STEP 4: OIC Enters while Advance Provides Security

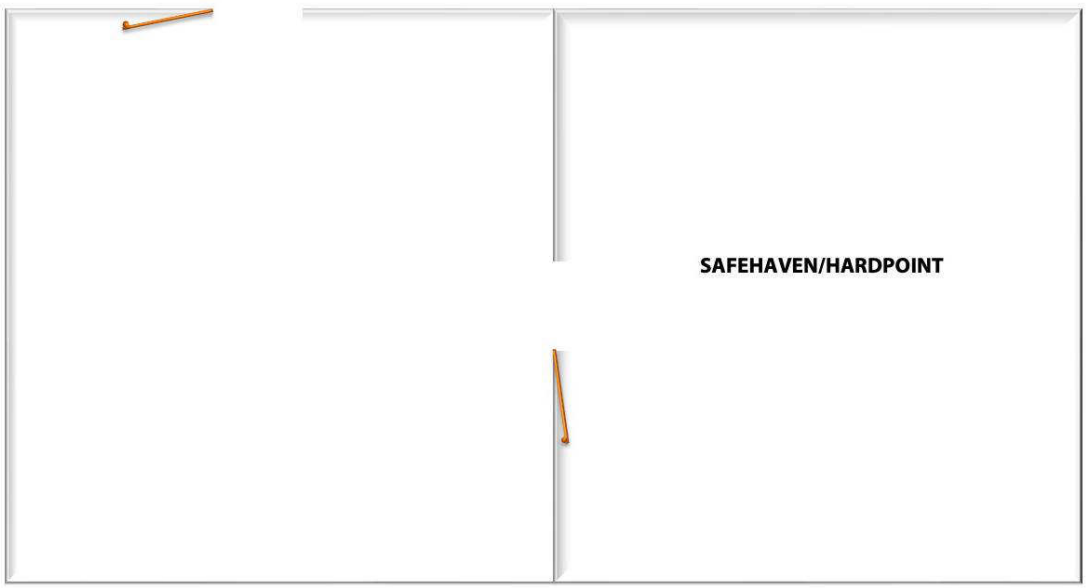
As soon as the OIC gets the VIP safely into the room, the advance will turn around and provide rear security, especially if the most serious threat is determined to be from the rear. The advance will close the door and lock it if possible. The detail then proceeds using the same steps described in previous techniques, establishing defensive positions in the room, and barricading the door as needed.

# TWO PERSON: IMMEDIATE WITH INWARD OPENING DOOR

## STEP 1: Advance Prepares to Clear the First Room

This scenario begins with the primary threat to the rear, calling for an immediate entry. However, in this scenario the entry door opens inward which will slightly change the detail's clearing procedures. As in previous techniques the advance will move slightly ahead and prepare to enter the room. The OIC and VIP follow behind.

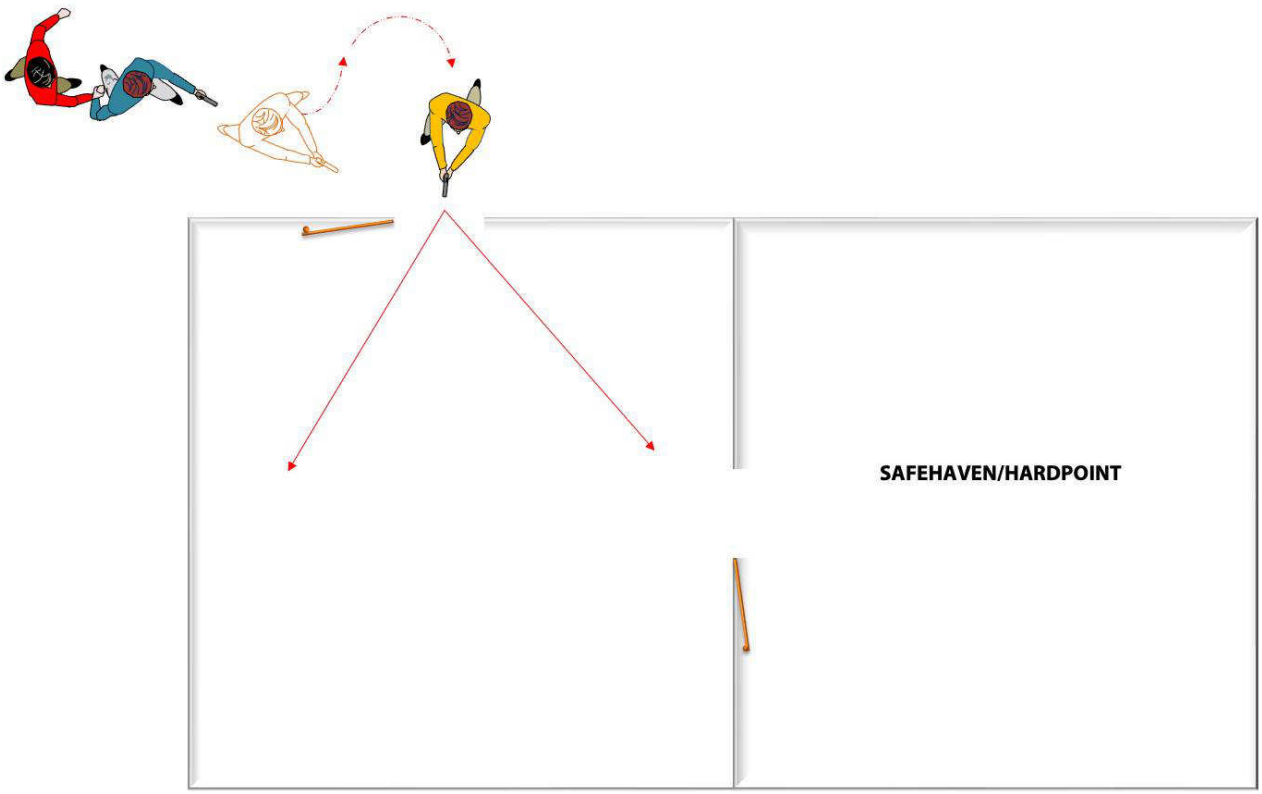


# TWO PERSON: IMMEDIATE WITH INWARD OPENING DOOR

## STEP 2: Advance Swings Out to Clear the Doorway

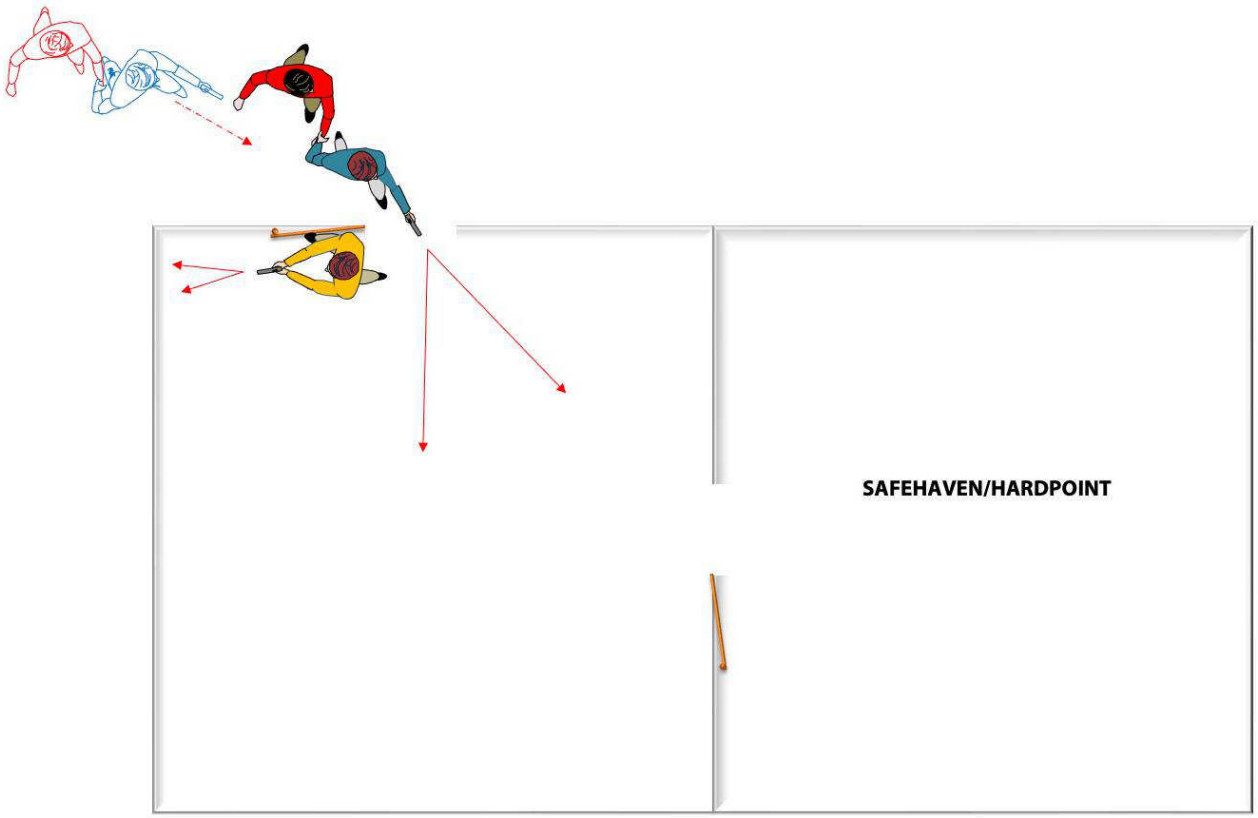
As in previous techniques, prior to entering the room, the advance will swing out in an arc to clear the doorway and begin clearing the interior of the room from the outside. The OIC will remain behind and be prepared to quickly follow the advance into the room to execute the immediate entry.



# TWO PERSON: IMMEDIATE WITH INWARD OPENING DOOR

## STEP 3: Advance Clears Towards the Door

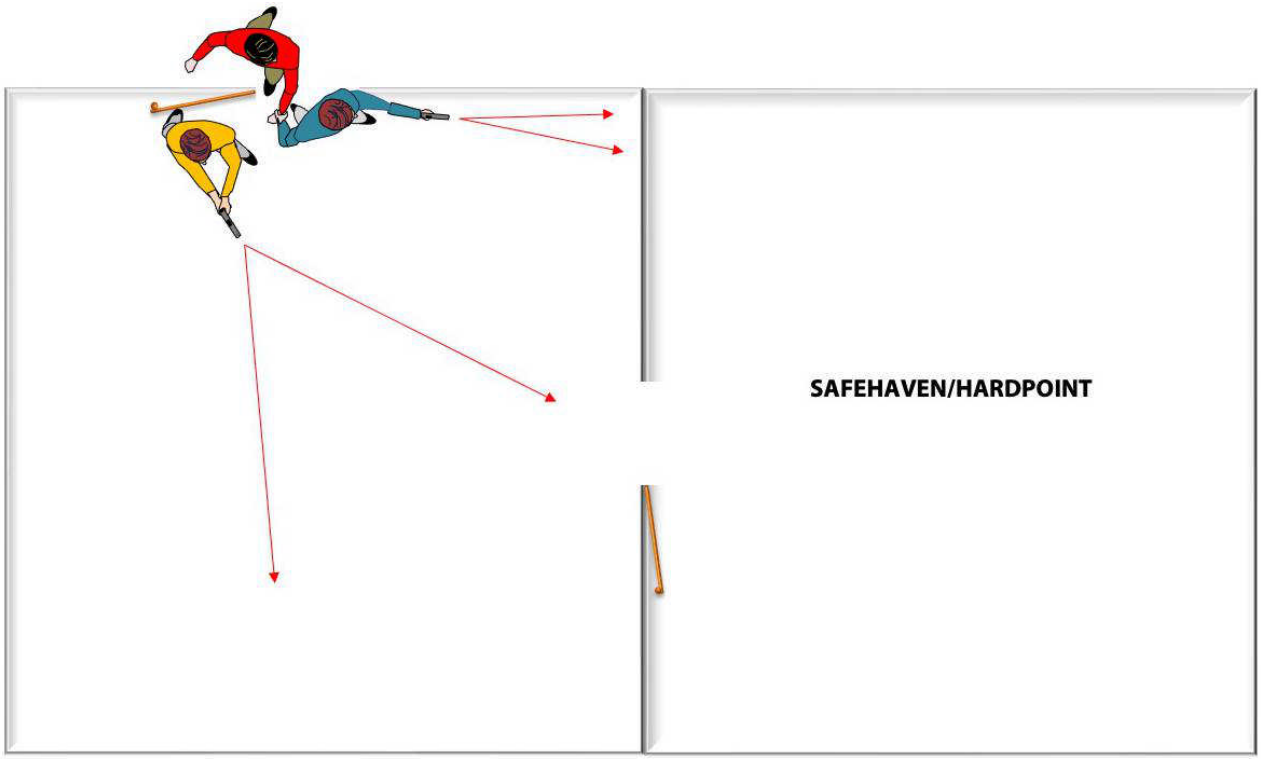
In standard two-person room clearing tactics, when clearing a room with an inward-opening door it is generally best for the first person into the room to clear in the direction opposite the swing of the door. There are several reasons for this, including the fact that the inward opening door provides some degree of concealment or screening depending on how far open it is. However, when conducting protection room clearing tactics and escorting a VIP, it is best to do the opposite and have the first person into the room (the advance) clear in the direction towards the inward swing of the door. The reason for this is that it puts the advance in position to quickly close the door behind the detail allowing the OIC to focus on the VIP. However, depending on the situation the advance may choose to enter in the direction opposite the swing of the door and the OIC must be prepared to adjust as needed.



# TWO PERSON: IMMEDIATE WITH INWARD OPENING DOOR

## STEP 4: OIC Follows Behind the Advance

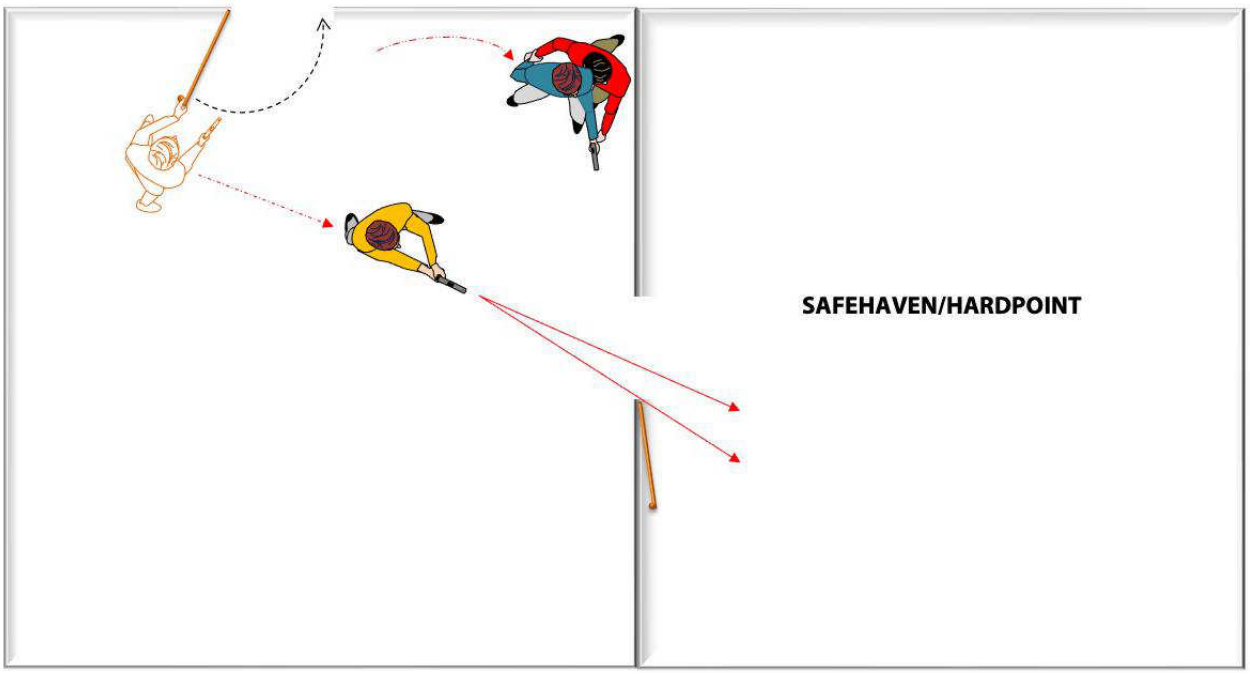
As the advance clears the corner and scans inward, the OIC will be following directly behind and clears the opposite corner to cover the advance's back while shielding the VIP as much as possible. The advance will also slam the door open to determine if there is anyone hiding behind the door, checking behind the door if needed.



# TWO PERSON: IMMEDIATE WITH INWARD OPENING DOOR

## STEP 5: Advance Closes the Door and Clears Danger Areas

The advance will close the door behind the detail and lock it if possible. Meanwhile, the OIC moves the VIP to a safe location within the room, using his/her body to shield the VIP. Once the door is closed the advance will move out and clear any danger areas within the room where a threat might be hiding. In this case, there is an open door leading into the next room. The advance will position to best cover that opening and clear the next room using any combination of singleton or two-person clearing techniques. Once the next room is clear the detail then proceeds using the same steps described in previous techniques, establishing defensive positions in the room, and barricading the door as needed.



# TWO PERSON: CLOSED DOORS

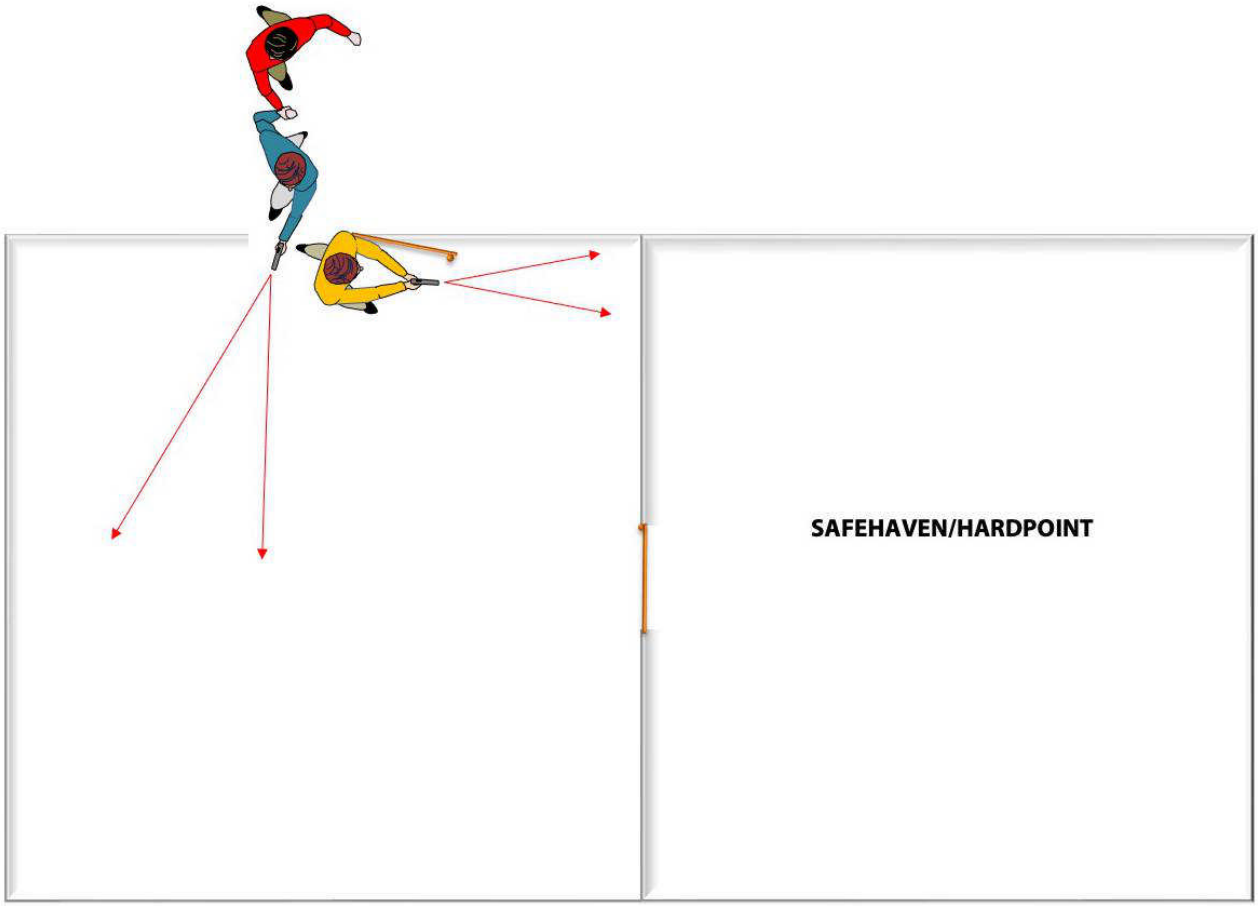
## STEP 1: Advance Opens the Door and Leads into the Room

The previous examples have all involved open doors. If a two-person detail comes upon a closed door the detail will have limited options. While it is possible for the OIC to open the door in an emergency situation, it is generally preferable for the advance to conduct a "self-breach," opening the door and leading the way into the room. The advance can either conduct a self-breach and then execute an immediate entry, or the advance can open the door, back away and conduct a sweep or other delayed entry technique based on the situation.

# TWO PERSON: CLOSED DOORS

## STEP 2: Advance Clears in the Direction of the Door

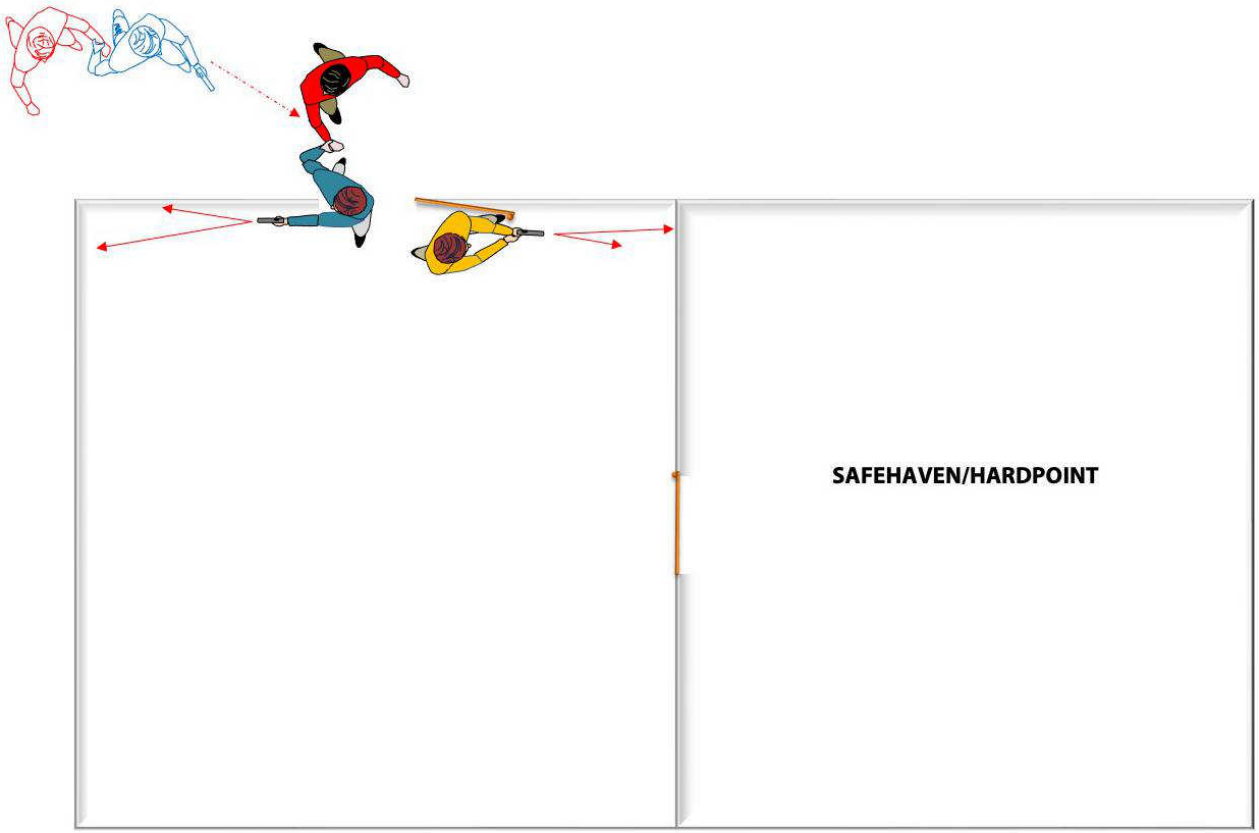
In this example, the detail decides to employ an immediate entry technique. Because the door opens inward, the advance will self-breach and then follow the door, slamming it into the wall and clearing the left corner. The OIC will follow closely behind, scanning outward while moving in the opposite direction of the advance.



# TWO PERSON: CLOSED DOORS

## STEP 3: OIC Clears Opposite Corner

As in previous immediate entry techniques, the OIC will follow closely behind the advance and clear the opposite corner, covering the advance's back. The OIC will keep the VIP out of harm's way as much as possible and use his/her body to screen and protect the VIP from potential threats.



# TWO PERSON: CLOSED DOORS

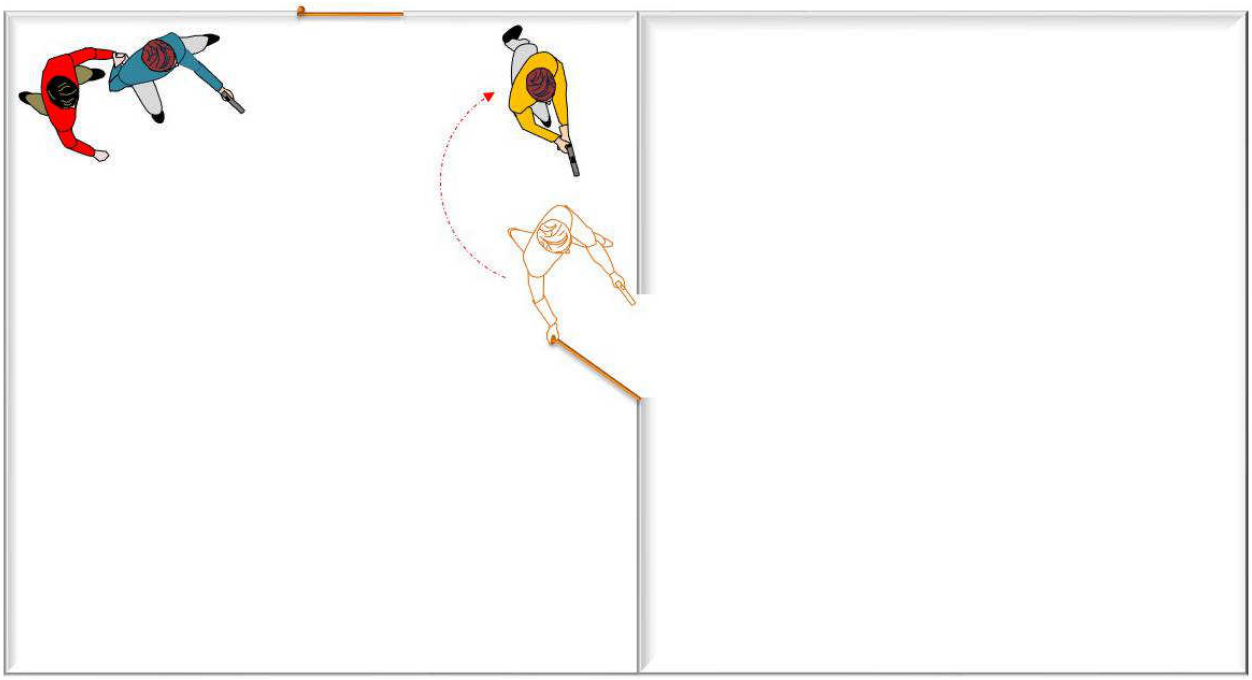
## STEP 4: Advance Moves to Open the Next Door

Upon entering the room, the OIC will move the VIP to the safest possible location, generally in the corner. The example below is just one option and after the initial entry, the OIC might choose any corner in the room or any other covered location to place the VIP. It is also possible that the OIC will start by placing the VIP in one location, but then if time allows, he/she might move the VIP to a better location as needed. While the OIC is focused on the VIP, the advance closes the door behind the detail and locks it if possible. From there the advance will proceed to the next closed door and prepare to open it.

# TWO PERSON: CLOSED DOORS

## STEP 5: Advance Opens the Door and Backs Away

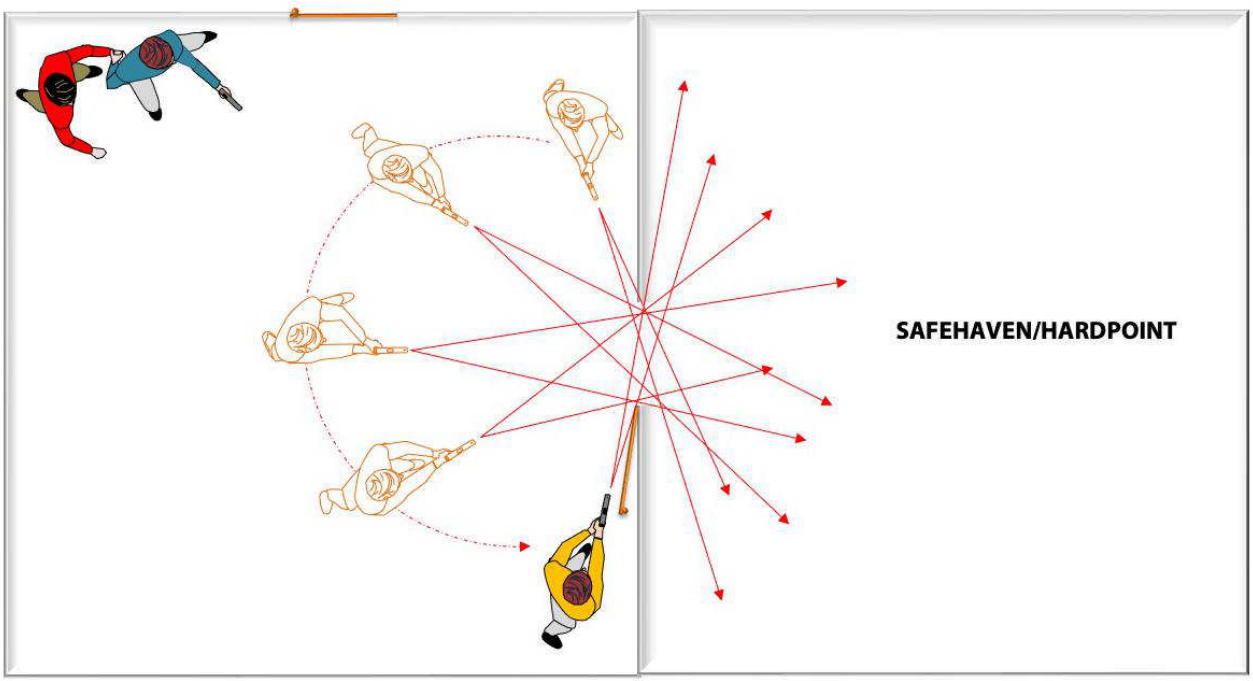
While the advance executed an immediate entry on the first closed door, he/she will employ a delayed entry technique for the second closed door. This calls for opening the door and quickly backing away. Before opening the door, it is important to ensure that the VIP is in the best possible location so that he/she is not unexpectedly exposed to threats in the room as the door opens. While there is no furniture depicted in the example below, the best option may include positioning the VIP behind furniture or moving the VIP into the corner farthest from the door if time allows. There is no single, best answer and the detail members must remain alert and make good tactical decisions based on the situation.



# TWO PERSON: CLOSED DOORS

## STEP 6: Advance Conducts Sweep

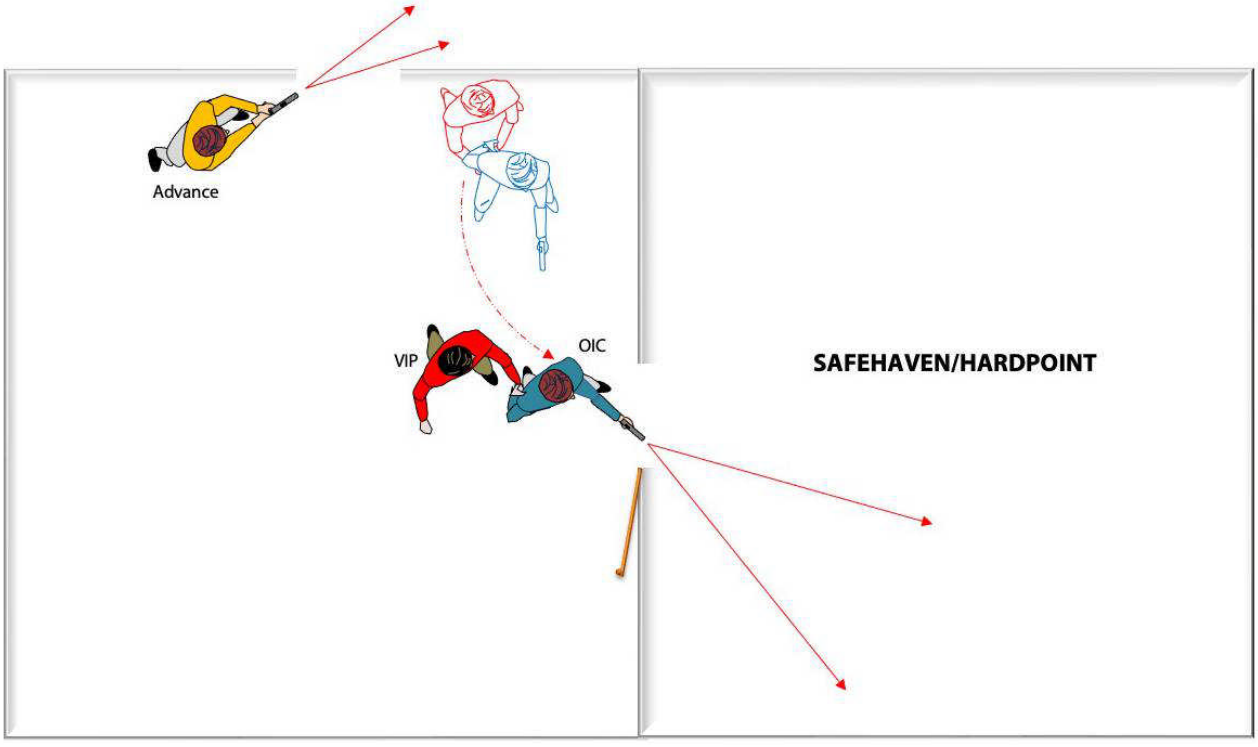
After opening the door and backing away, the advance will conduct the initial sweep of the doorway, clearing as much of the room from the outside as possible. Following the initial sweep, the advance will conduct a half-sweep and employ any singleton or two-person clearing technique to enter the room. Once the next room is clear the detail then proceeds using the same steps described in previous techniques, establishing defensive positions in the room, and barricading the door as needed. This scenario shows how the advance can open doors while employing either immediate or delayed entry techniques.



# TWO PERSON: OIC CLEARS IN THE LEAD

## STEP 1: Advance Covers the Rear while OIC Leads

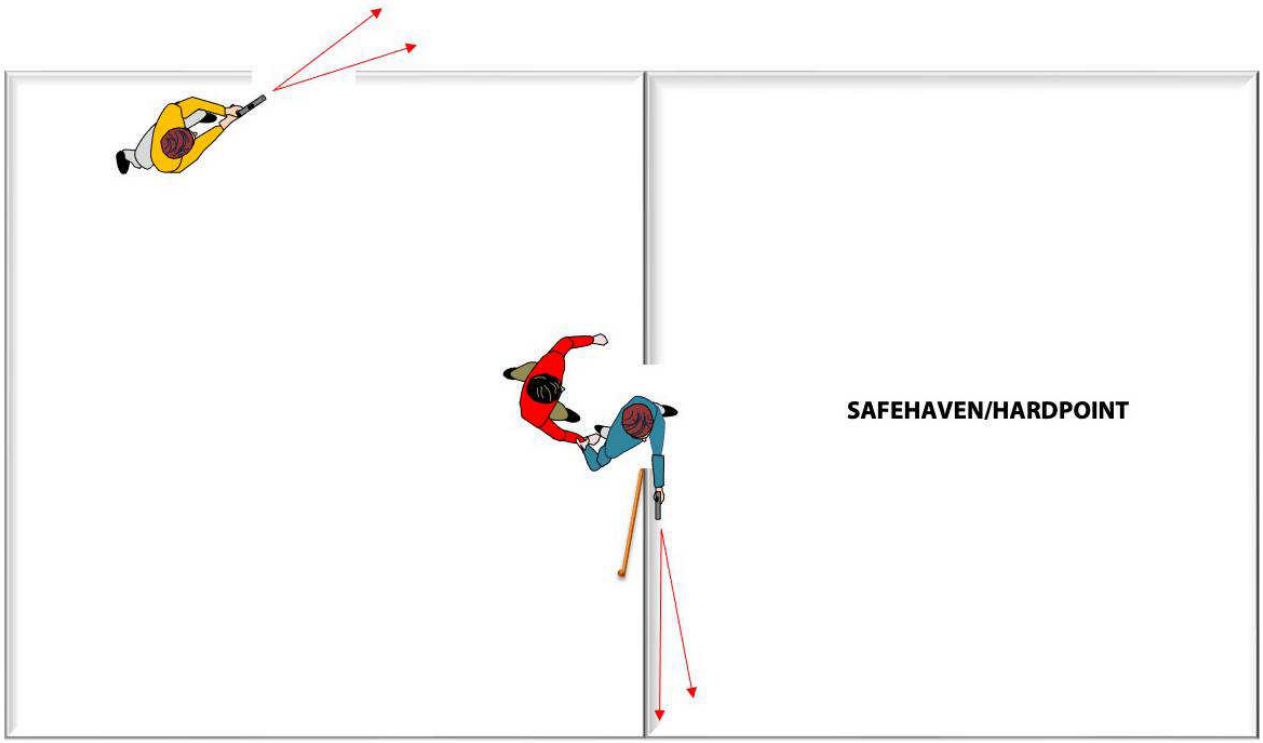
In some situations, the threat to the rear might be so great that the detail decides to focus all available guns on rear security while sending the OIC ahead to lead the room clearing with the VIP in tow. Once again, a good example of this is if the VIP is being pursued by multiple threats. In the example below there is an additional factor that increases the need for rear security, there is no door to close to cover the detail's rear. Therefore, in this example the advance remains behind to continue to engage threats in pursuit while the OIC leads the VIP away from danger towards the safehaven.



# TWO PERSON: OIC CLEARS IN THE LEAD

## STEP 2: OIC Clears the First Corner with VIP in Tow

While the advance continues to cover the rear, the OIC must clear the next room alone with the VIP in tow. This is not easy and will incur some risk since as an individual the OIC cannot clear both corners at the same time. Therefore, the OIC will need to choose to clear one corner first and then quickly turn to clear the other corner. It is possible to clear from the doorway or momentarily separate from the VIP in order to clear but this might not fit with the objective to get the VIP into the room and away from the immediate threat as quickly as possible.



# TWO PERSON: OIC CLEARS IN THE LEAD

## STEP 3: OIC Spins to Clear the Second Corner

After clearing the first corner, the OIC spins around to clear the second corner. By maintaining a firm grip on the VIP's arm/wrist while rotating in a smooth motion, the OIC will swing the VIP around behind. If possible, when conducting this movement be sure not to swing the VIP in a way that will cause him/her to trip, fall or crash into objects in the room. Meanwhile, the advance will continue to provide rear security but can start to reposition in order to avoid getting too far from the rest of the detail.

# TWO PERSON: OIC CLEARS IN THE LEAD

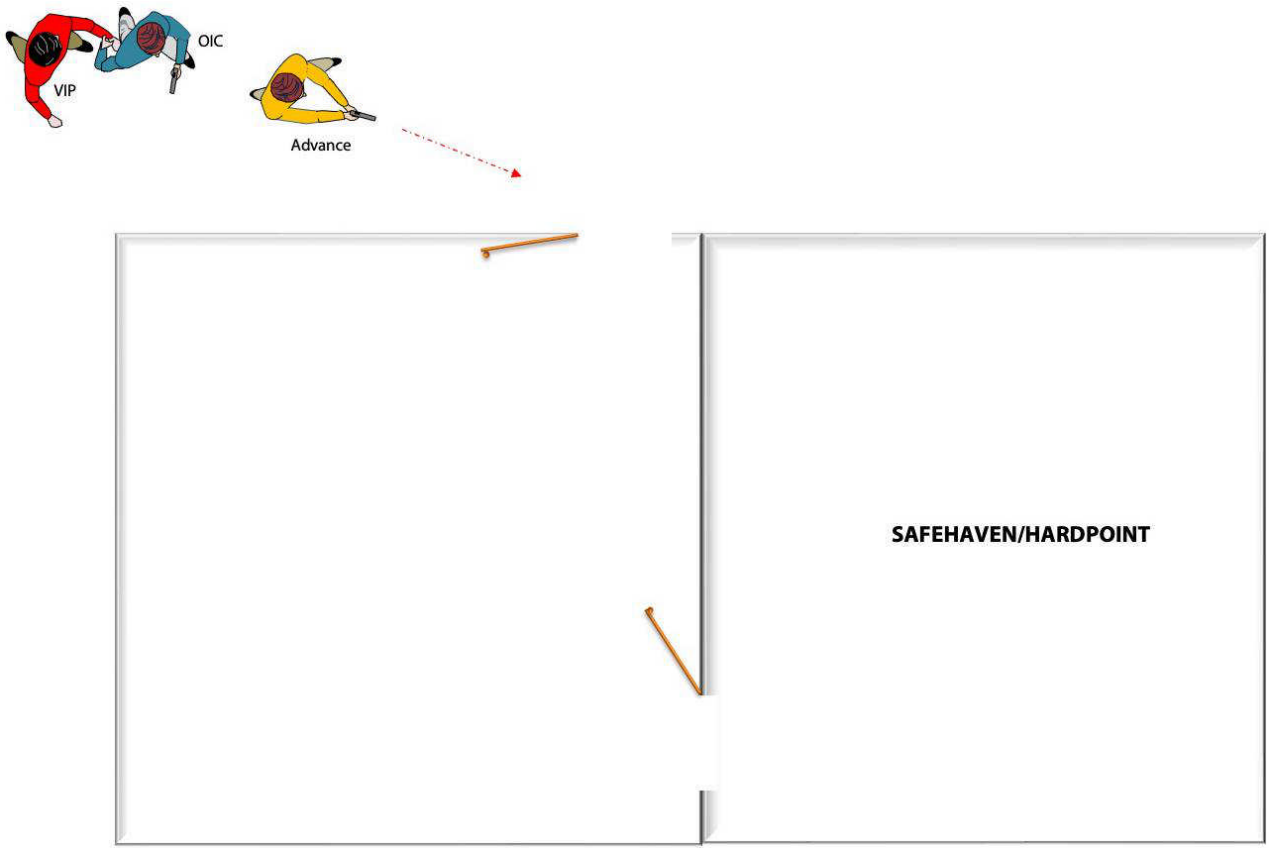
## STEP 4: Advance Enters the Room and Closes the Door

Once the VIP is safely in the room the advance will follow behind the detail, closing and locking the door if possible. The advance will then move to a domination point and assist the OIC in clearing the room and checking for threats in any danger areas or behind furniture. The detail then proceeds using the same steps described in previous techniques, establishing defensive positions in the room, and barricading the door as needed.

# TWO PERSON: CORNER-FED ROOM

## STEP 1: Advance Prepares to Clear the First Room

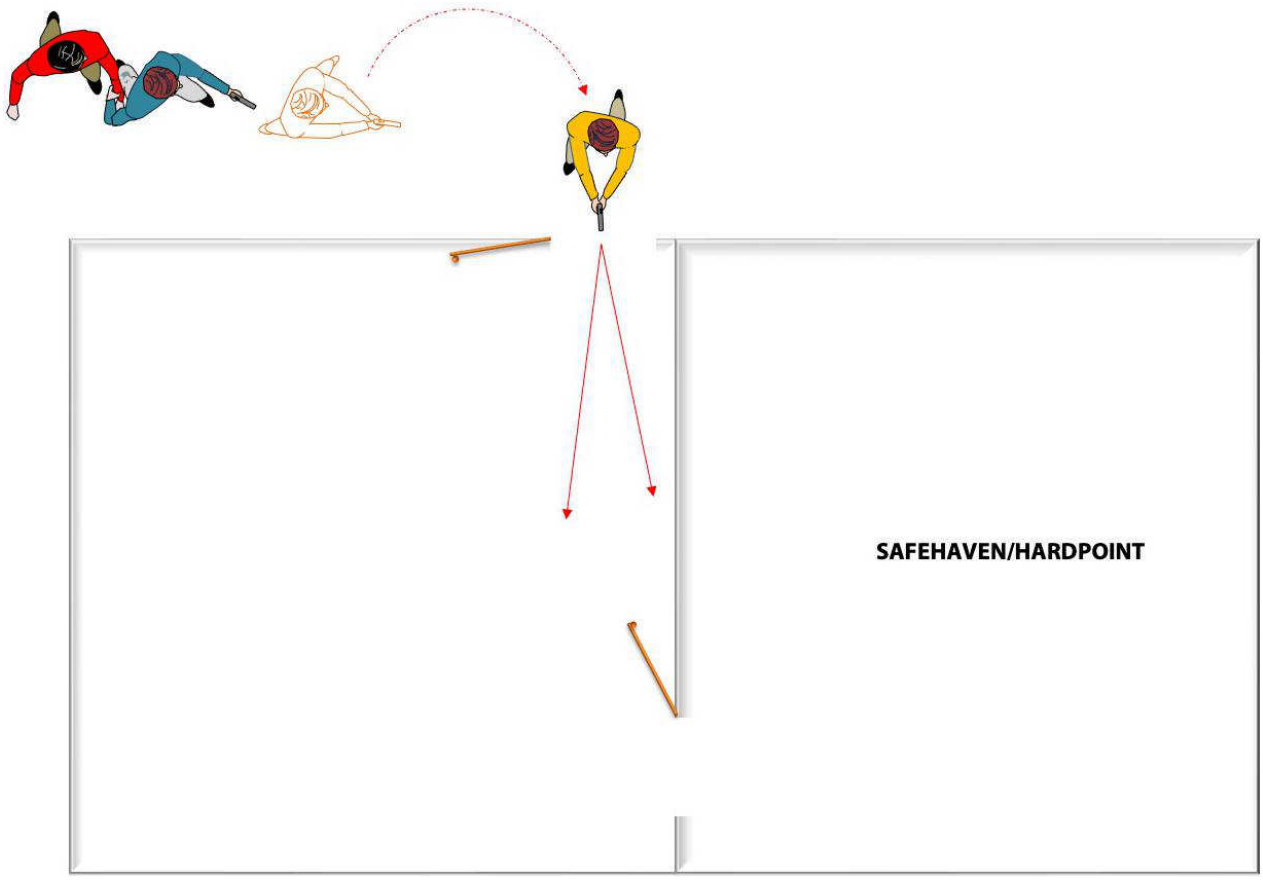
The procedures for entering a corner-fed room with a VIP are similar to the procedures for entering a center-fed room. However, the detail might have to make a few adjustments inside the room to minimize the VIP's exposure. As before, the scenario begins with the primary threat to the rear. Therefore, the detail will conduct an immediate entry into the first room in order to get the VIP out of harm's way as quickly as possible. The advance will move slightly ahead and prepare to enter the first room. The OIC follows behind maintaining positive control of the VIP using whatever control technique he/she deems appropriate for the situation.



# TWO PERSON: CORNER-FED ROOM

## STEP 2: Advance Swings Out to Clear Doorway

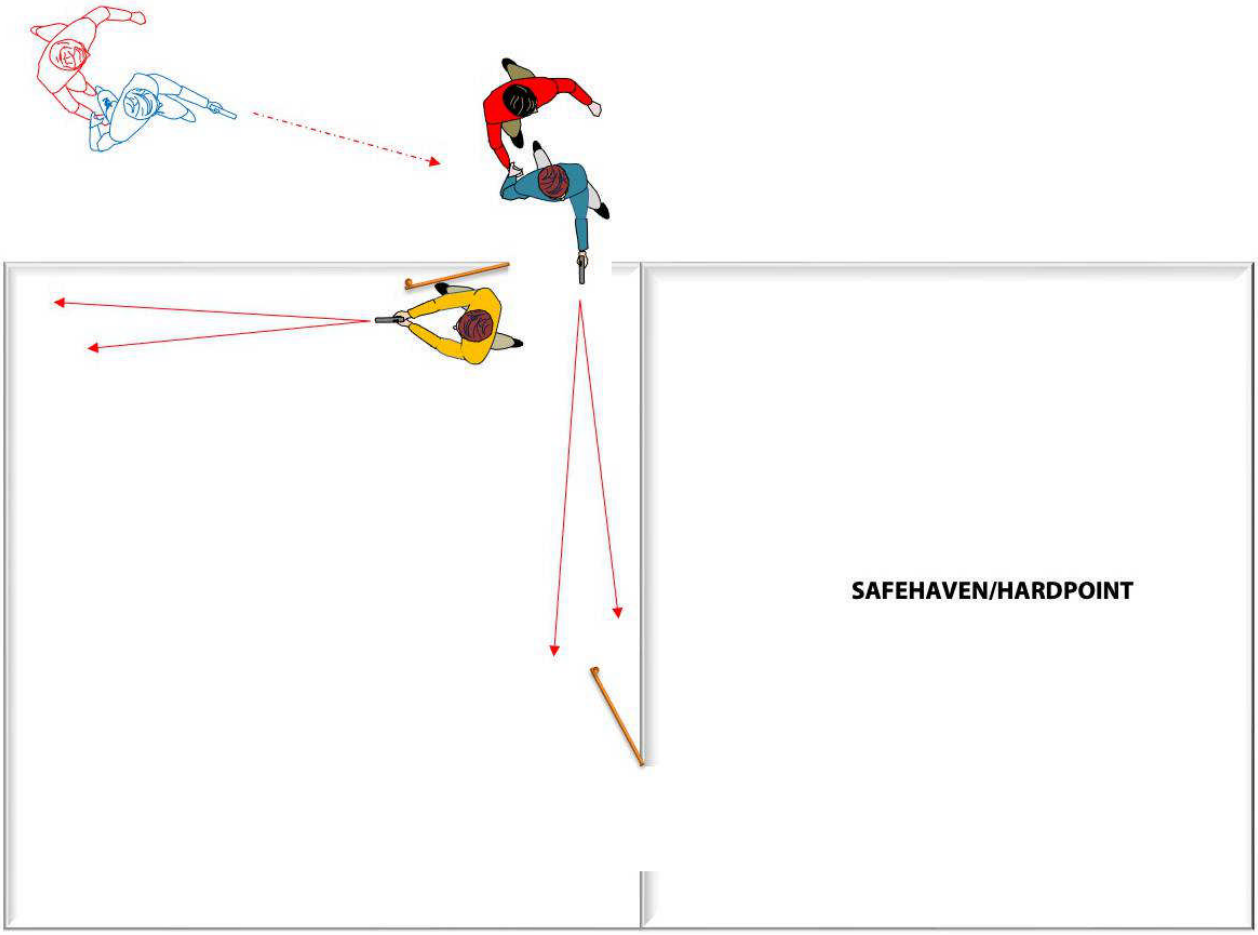
Prior to entering the room, the advance will swing out in an arc to clear the doorway and begin clearing the interior of the room from the outside. The OIC will remain behind and be prepared to quickly follow the advance into the room to execute the immediate entry.



# TWO PERSON: CORNER-FED ROOM

## STEP 3: Advance Clears the Corner

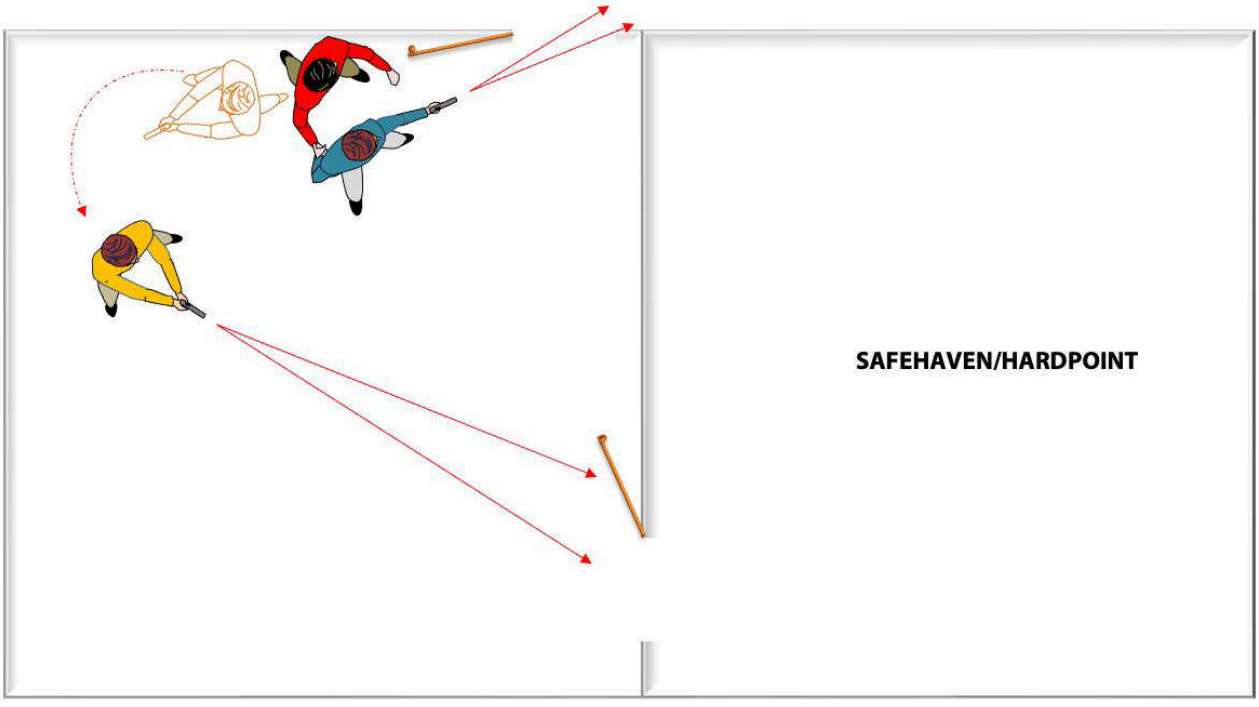
The advance enters the room and turns toward the unknown corner since the front is already clear. In standard room clearing tactics, the second person into the room will generally go in the opposite direction, which would be straight ahead in this case. However, if the second person is escorting a VIP like in the example below, going straight ahead will often leave the VIP more exposed. Therefore, when a two-person protective detail enters a corner-fed room, both detail members will often turn in the same direction once entering the room.



# TWO PERSON: CORNER-FED ROOM

## STEP 4: Advance Pushes Further Into the Room

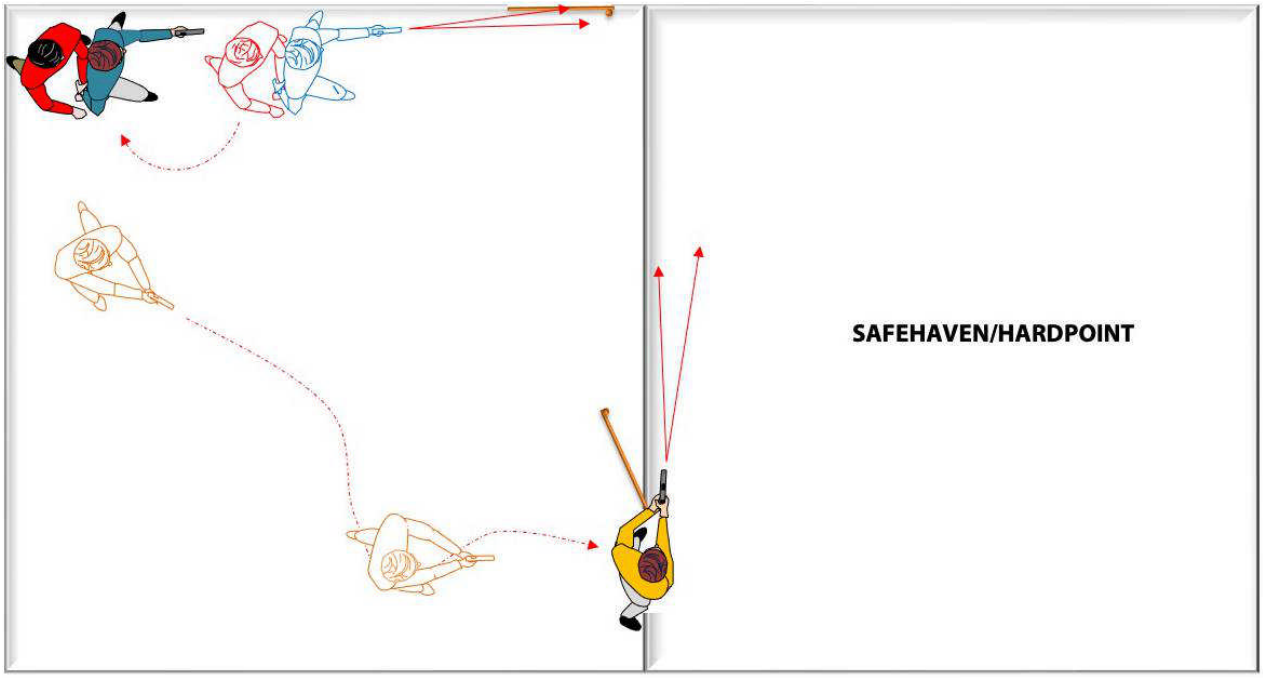
As just mentioned, when two-person details clear a corner-fed room, both detail members will often move in the same direction to minimize the VIP's exposure. However, in the example below the door opens inward which means the advance would generally stop and control the door. However, if the advance stops to control the door in this situation he/she might block or obstruct the flow of the OIC and VIP into the room. Therefore, the advance should slam the door open hard to make sure no one is hiding behind it, then continue to move into the room making room for the OIC and VIP to get out of the way of the door. If the door does not open inward, the movement for both detail members will be the same, but the advance will not need to slam the door open prior to moving deeper into the room.



# TWO PERSON: CORNER-FED ROOM

## STEP 5: OIC Shields the VIP while Advance Clears Ahead

After moving out of the way of the doorway, the OIC will generally want to keep moving to get the VIP into a corner or behind furniture. In some cases, this might involve the advance and OIC/VIP switching positions with the advance providing rear security and the OIC shielding the VIP in the corner. In the example below, there is an additional open door deeper in the room, so the advance quickly moves forward to check for threats. As already stated, the advance can use any combination of delayed or immediate clearing/entry techniques to clear the next room. In this case the advance decides to move directly to the open door and conduct a quick-clear from the doorway. From here the detail can proceed with the same steps described in previous techniques, moving the VIP into the safehaven, establishing defensive positions, and barricading the door as needed.



# ROOM CLEARING
# Three-Person Escort Detail

Adding a third person to the escort detail greatly improves flexibility and security for the VIP. However, a three-person detail is still small and individual detail members may still need to assume multiple responsibilities and cover multiple angles. A three-person detail includes the OIC and the advance but adds the Shift Leader (SL) as the third member of the detail. In some situations, it might be possible that the third member of the detail is not actually the shift leader but the Right Rear (RR), Left Rear (LR), limo driver or follow car driver. However, the following examples assume the third detail member is the SL.

With the third detail member, it is no longer necessary to choose between front security and rear security. The advance can cover the front while the SL covers the rear, leaving the OIC to focus on the VIP who is protected in between. However, based on the situation, it is still possible to give up the balanced security formation and double security to either the front or rear. The SL may want to push past the VIP to help the advance address threats to the front, or the advance may need to stay back with the SL to augment security to the rear.

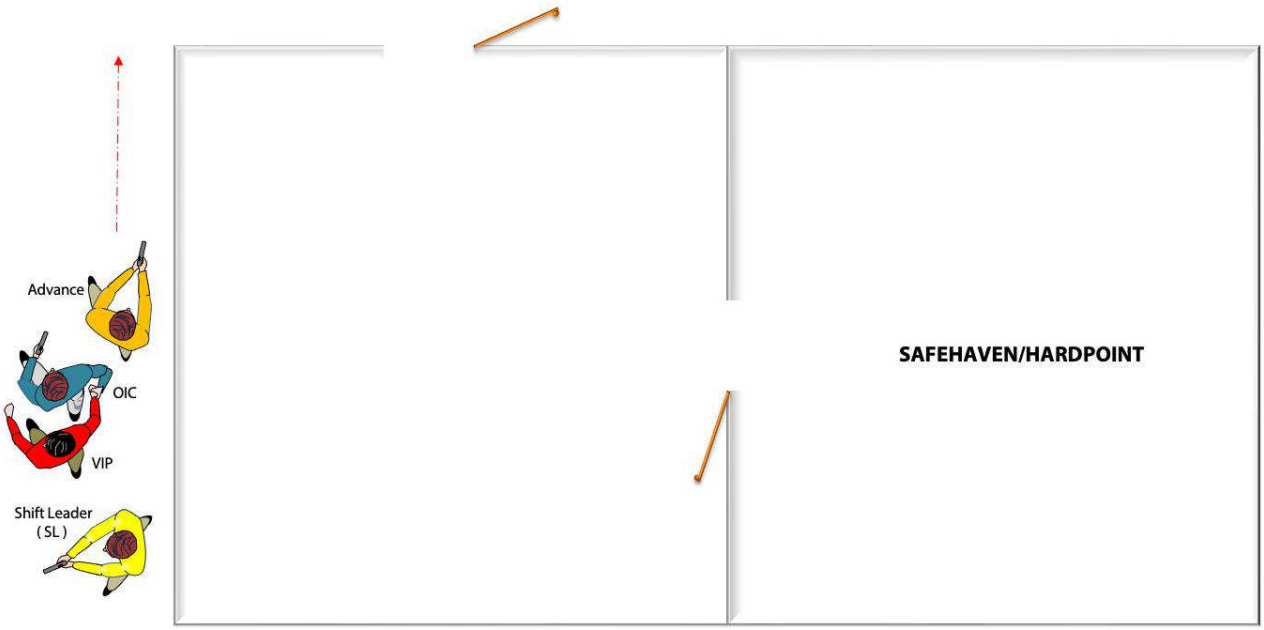
A three-person detail must still choose whether to employ immediate or delayed entry techniques, but the third detail member offers many more clearing options. For example, the detail can conduct an immediate entry with both the advance and SL to the front, or an immediate entry with the advance in the front and SL covering the rear. The detail can perform a delayed entry where only the advance moves forward to conduct a singleton clear, or another delayed entry option is for the advance and SL to clear the room as a buddy team while the OIC and VIP wait behind.

It is possible to employ all of the various singleton and two-person clearing techniques covered in detail in other Special Tactics publications in any combination to fit the situation. It is also important to recognize that the situation can change from one room to the next. The OIC might rush with the VIP into the first room but signs of danger in the next room might call for the advance and SL to move forward and clear the next room ahead of the VIP. All detail members must maintain communications and stay alert to be able to adapt to unexpected changes.

# THREE-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 1: Advance Leads while SL Covers the Rear

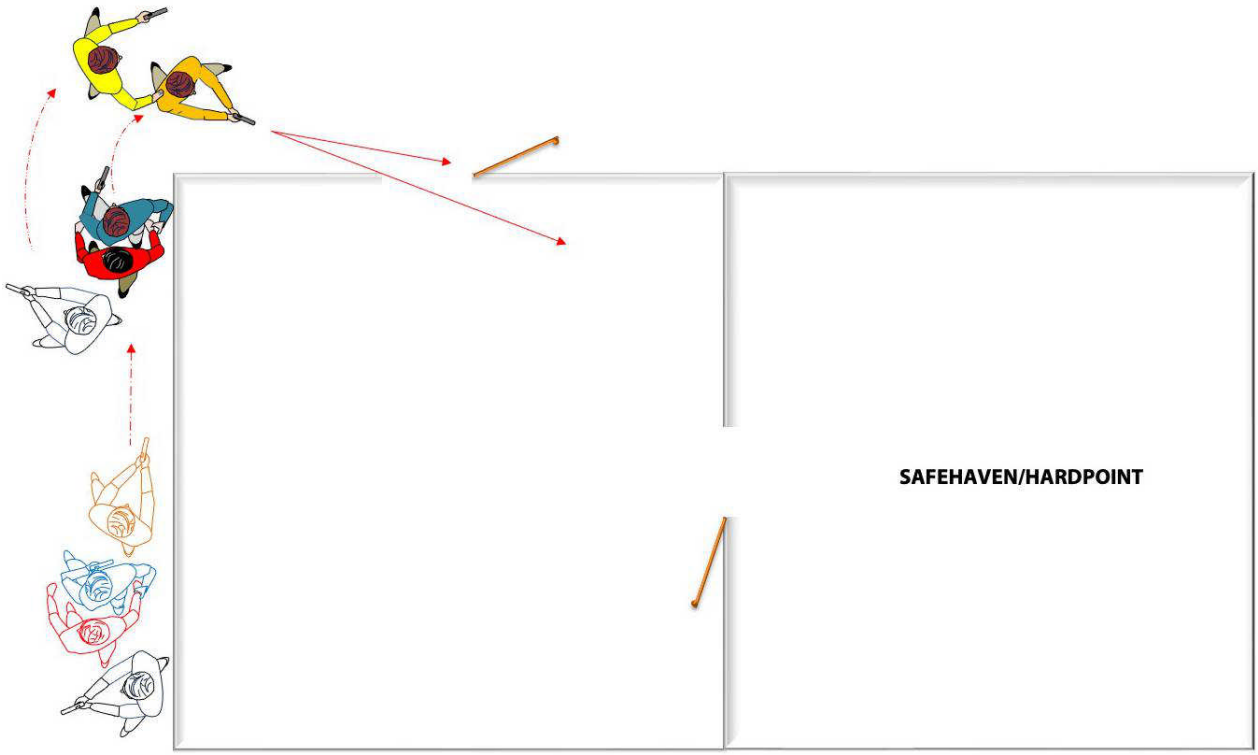
This scenario begins with the detail moving along the side of a structure. The primary threat is determined to be from the rear so the third detail member (Shift Leader – SL) positions to the rear to provide rear security. The advance leads the way towards the safehaven and the OIC maintains positive control of the VIP.



# THREE-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 2: SL Moves Forward to Help Clear the Corner

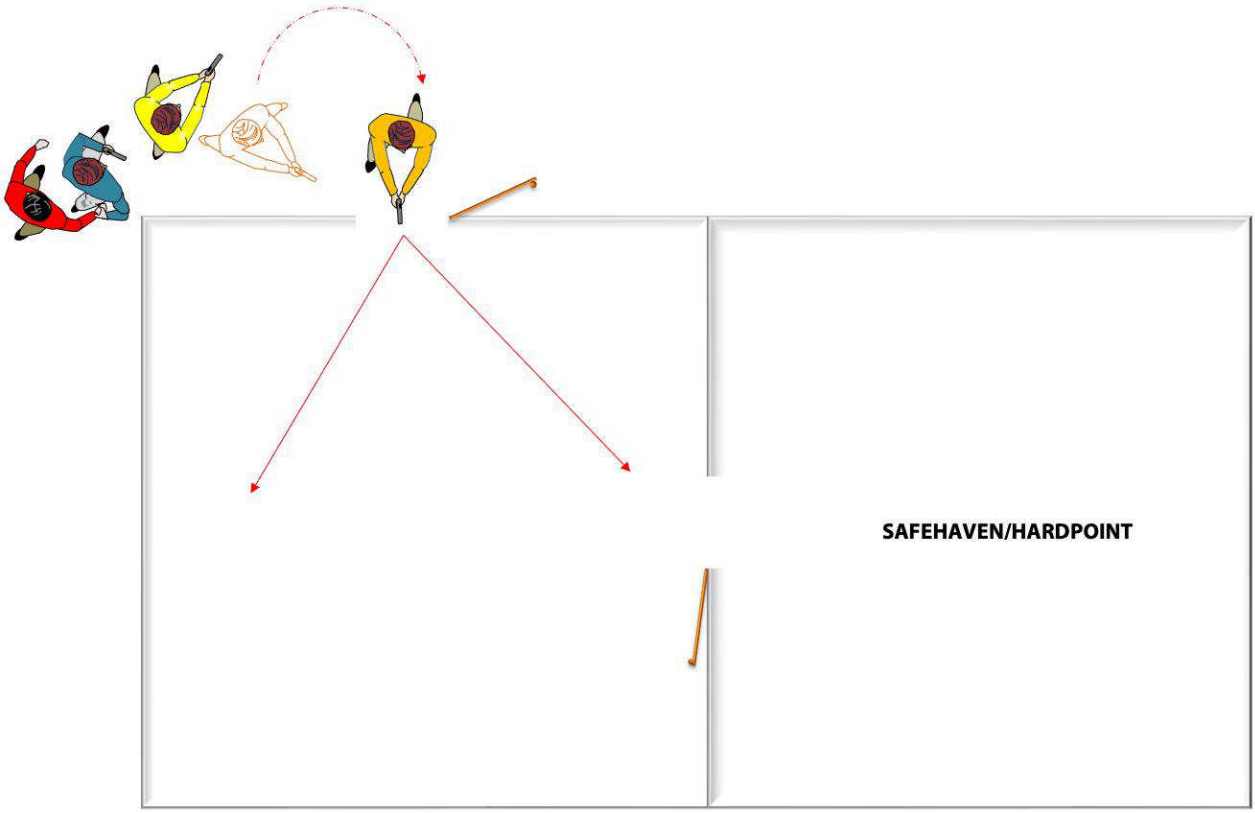
As the detail approaches the corner, the SL determines that there may be a greater threat around the corner. Therefore, the SL breaks away from rear security and moves around the OIC to join the advance in the lead of the formation to clear the corner. The OIC and VIP will stay back momentarily while the two lead detail members clear the way. However, given that this scenario is an emergency situation and there are still threats coming from the rear, the detail should not delay for long and must continue moving quickly towards the safehaven.



# THREE-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 3: Advance Swings Out to Clear the Doorway

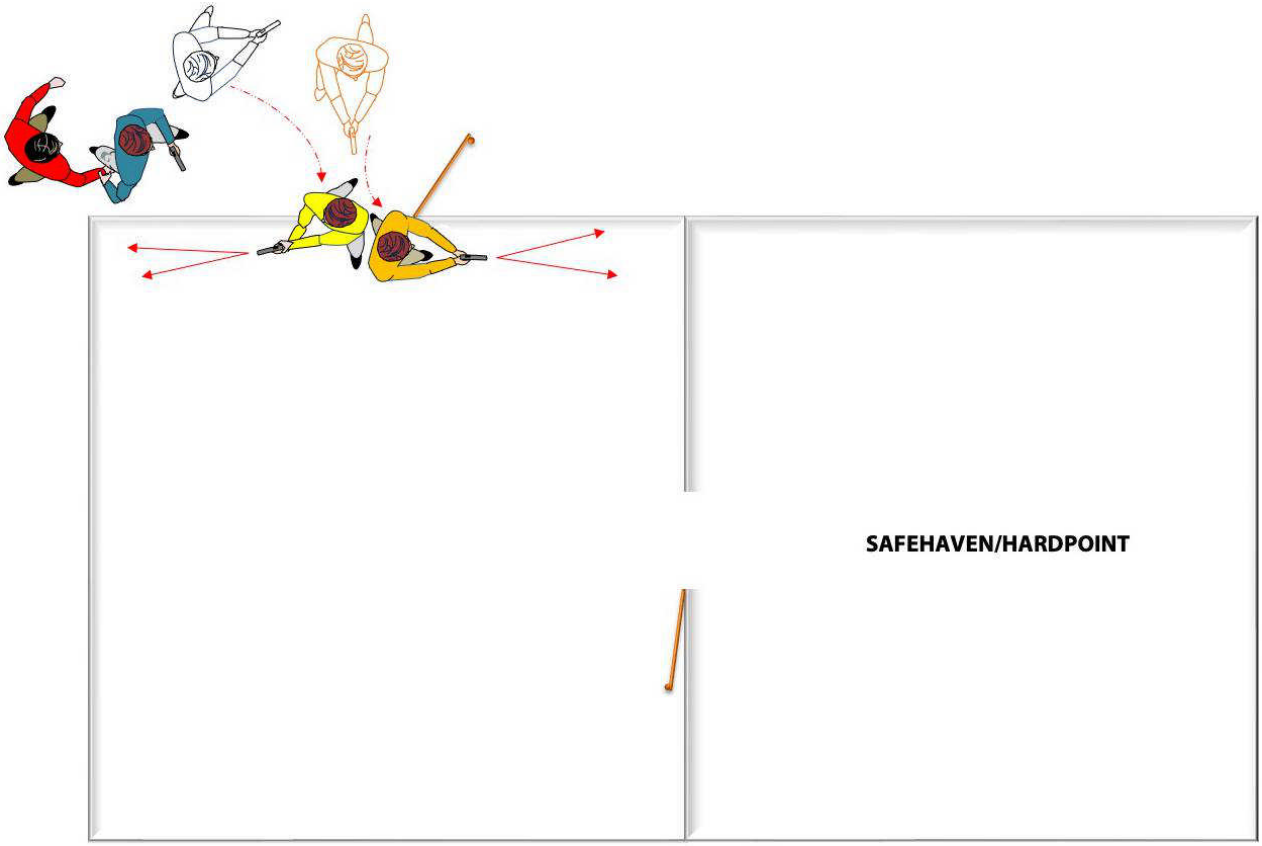
Prior to entering the room, the advance will swing out in an arc to clear the doorway and begin clearing the interior of the room from the outside. The SL will remain behind and be prepared to quickly follow the advance into the room to execute the immediate entry while the OIC remains further back, maintaining positive control of the VIP at all times. Notice that in this example, the advance and SL decide to lead the way into the room, momentarily giving up rear security. It is therefore important for the OIC to remain alert and watch out for threats coming from the rear. Depending on the situation, the SL might decide to remain in the rear of the formation, providing rear security while letting the advance move forward and clear the room as a singleton. In extreme cases, if the detail is taking fire from the rear and the room ahead is assumed to be safe, the advance and SL might both remain back to provide rear security while sending the OIC and VIP forward into the room alone. Therefore, the balance of manpower and firepower to the front or rear depends on the situation and the most likely threat.



# THREE-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 4: Advance and SL Clear the Corners

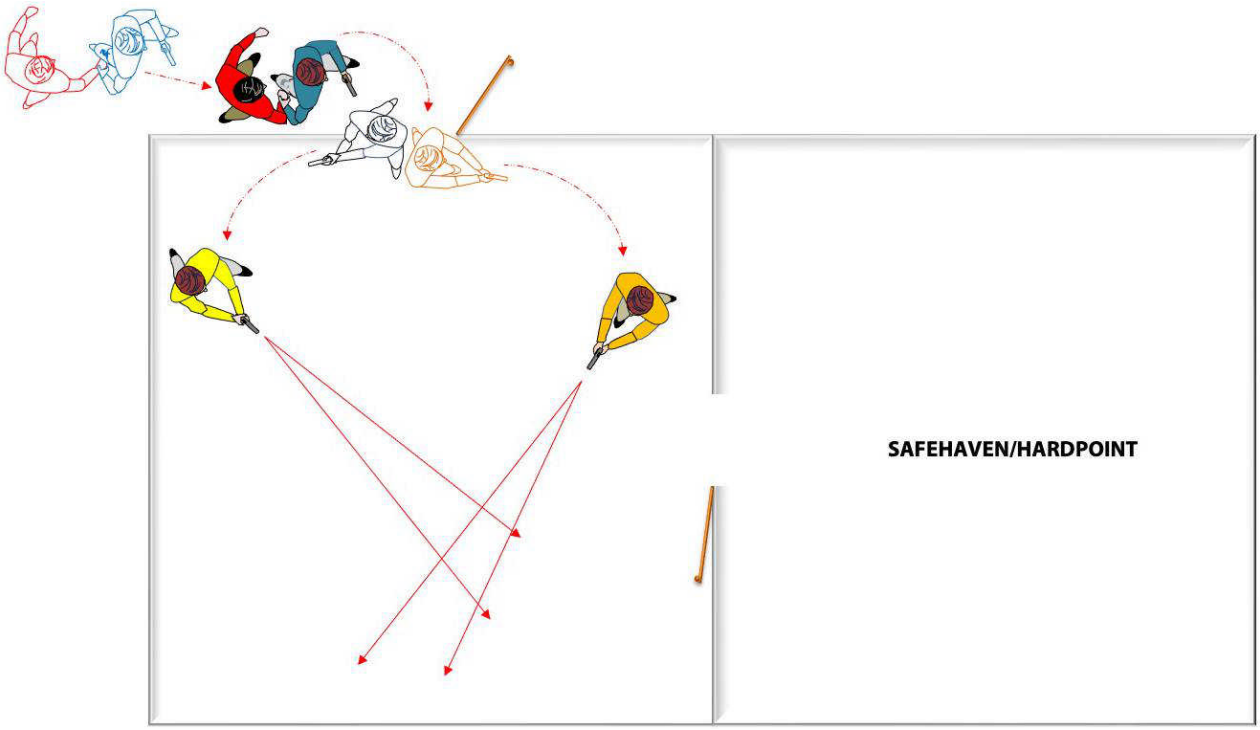
The advance moves into the room first and quickly turns to clear one of the two corners. The SL follows closely behind and clears the opposite corner as quickly as possible behind the advance to ensure that the advance's back is only exposed for a fraction of a second. The OIC will continue to lead the VIP towards the door and prepare to enter the room.



# THREE-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 5: Advance and SL Dominate the Room

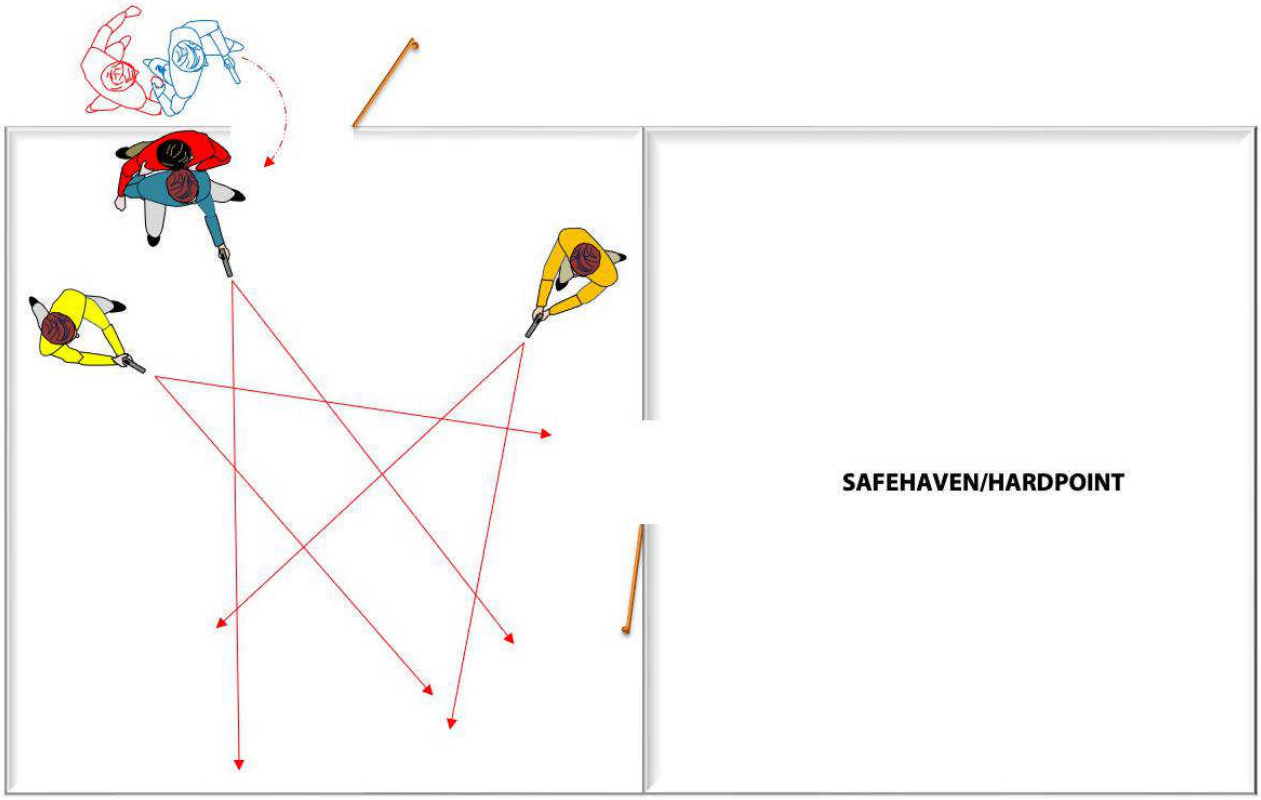
The advance and SL continue to penetrate deeper into the room to their domination points in order to ensure the room is clear and better see behind furniture or obstacles in the room. Given that this is an emergency scenario, the OIC and VIP will not wait outside to be called in but will follow the other two detail members into the room.



# THREE-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 6: OIC and VIP Enter the Room

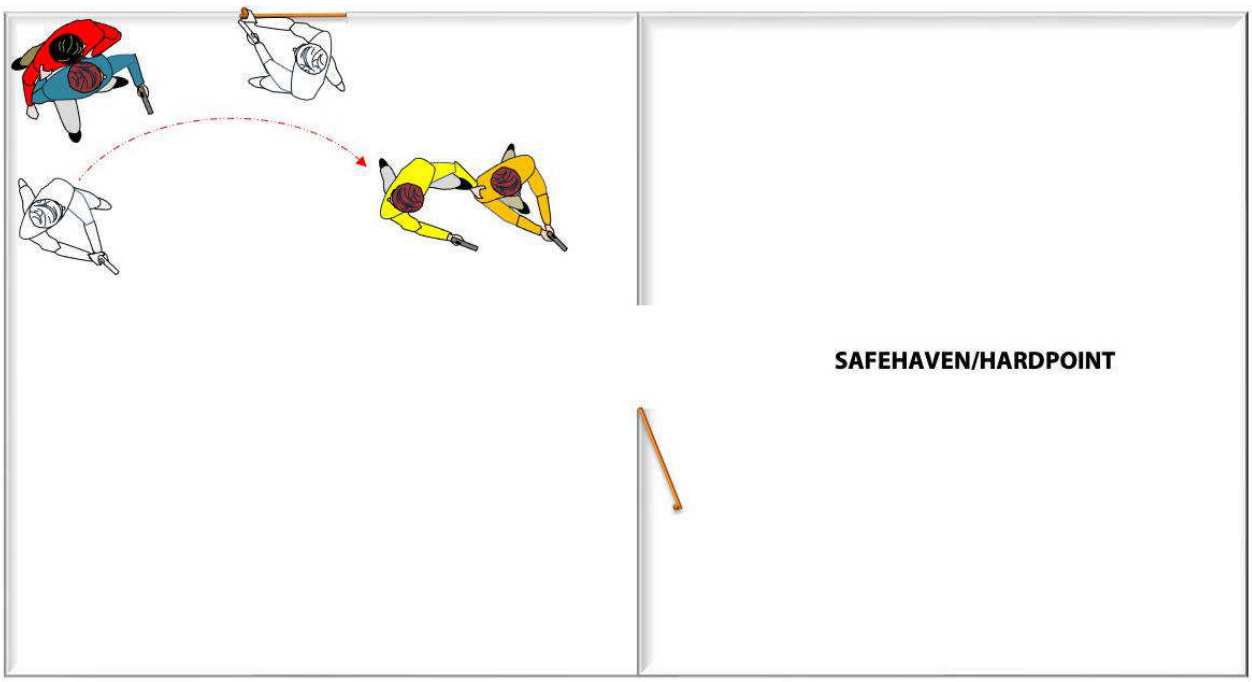
As the advance and SL occupy their domination points, the OIC will move the VIP into the room and begin looking for the safest place to position the VIP. The advance and SL will adjust position as needed to cover danger areas and better protect the VIP.



# THREE-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 7: Advance and SL Continue to Clear Forward

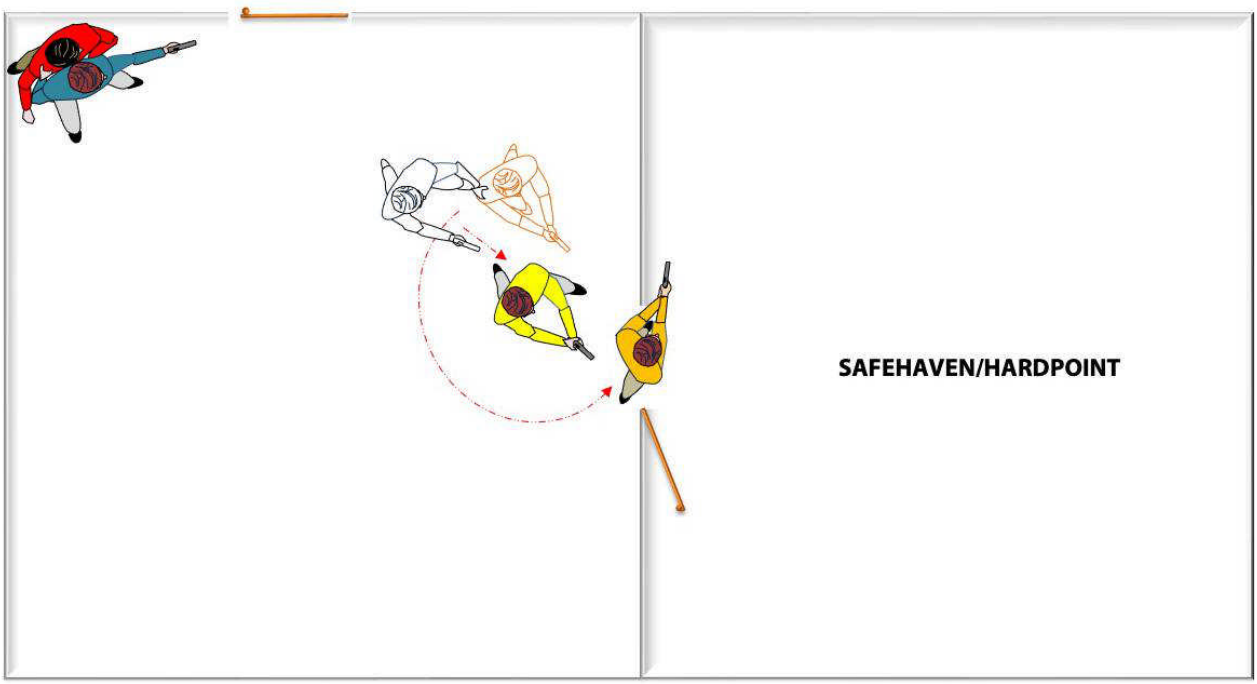
Once the first room is dominated, one of the detail members should close and lock the door behind the detail, depending on who is in the best position to do so. In the example below, there is another open door that the detail must clear in order to enter the safehaven. Once again, there are many ways for the detail to divide responsibility and clear the next room. The SL can remain with the VIP or provide rear security as the advance moves forward to clear the next room alone. Or the advance and SL can clear the next room together while the OIC waits with the VIP in the first room. Finally, if the priority is to get the VIP into the next room as soon as possible, the OIC can follow the other two detail members directly into the next room. In this example, the advance senses there might be a threat in the next room and does not want to clear the room alone. In this situation, the advance can either signal the SL to come help with a hand/arm signal, or the advance can simply hold position covering the door. The SL will see that the advance is not moving and that will be a non-verbal signal for the SL to come and help. The SL will approach the advance and deliver a firm squeeze or other signal to initiate movement into the next room. This is just one example of how the detail can use various signals and techniques to clear from one room to the next.



# THREE-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 8: Advance Clears the First Corner

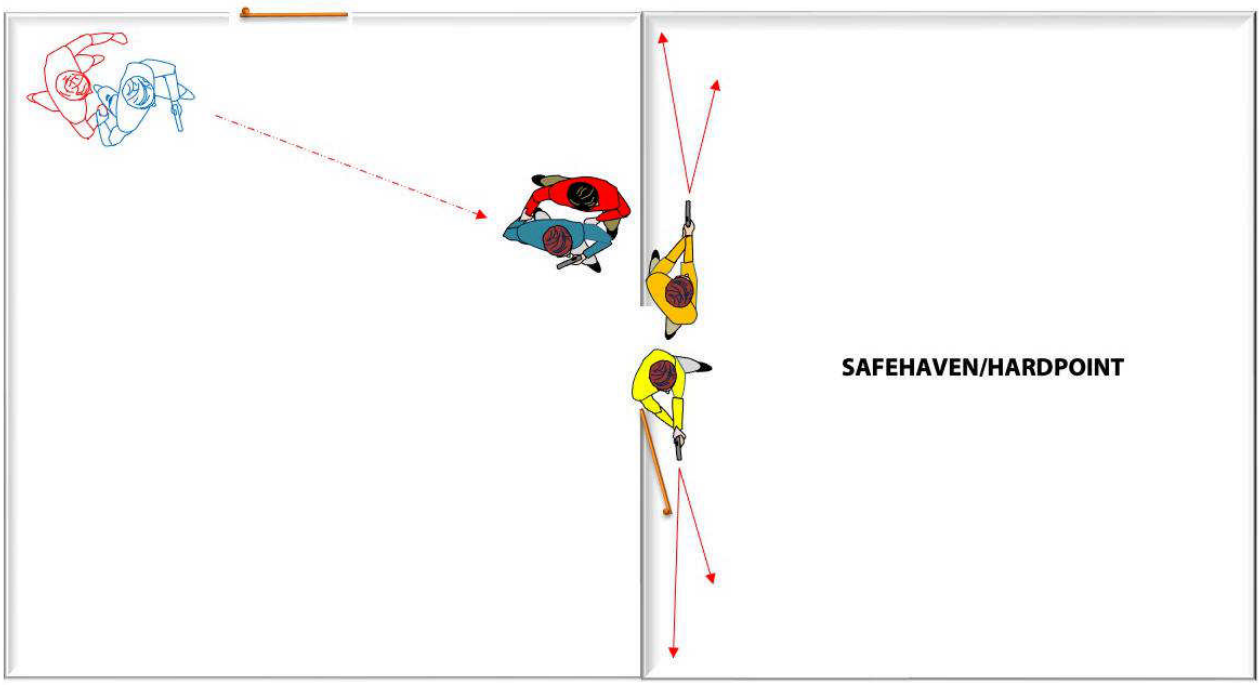
As with previous entry techniques, once the advance receives the squeeze from the SL, the advance will swing out as needed to clear some of the room from the outside. The note that the advance can also choose to conduct a full sweep on the door while the SL steps back. To clear the corner the advance will move into the room and turn quickly in either direction. Because the VIP is not following directly behind, the first person into the room does not necessarily need to clear in the direction of the inward opening door and can turn away from the door as in normal two-person clearing tactics. The SL should be following right behind and try to clear the opposite corner as quickly as possible to cover the advance's back. The OIC will continue to keep the VIP in the corner as part of the delayed entry, not rushing directly into the room behind the rest of the detail.



# THREE-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 9: SL Clears the Opposite Corner and OIC Moves Up

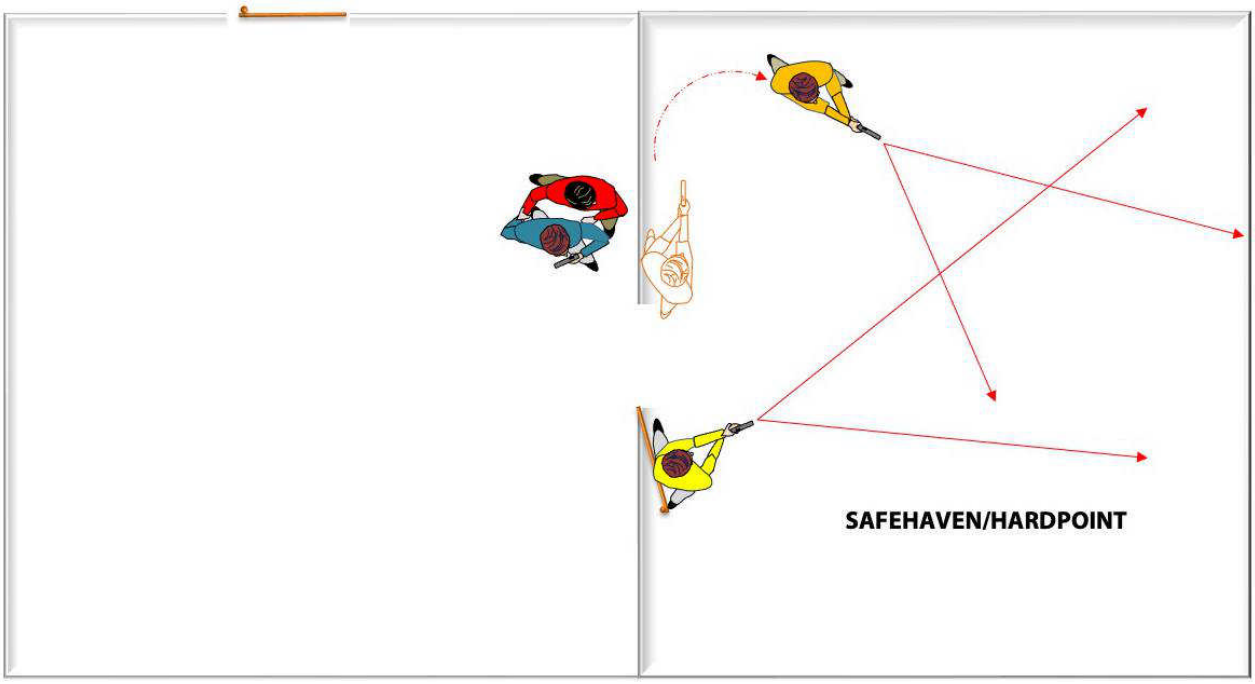
As already mentioned, the SL will enter the room and clear in the opposite direction as the advance as quickly as possible to cover the advance's back. As the first two detail members enter the room the OIC may also choose to move closer so the detail does not become separated. If the OIC chooses this option, he/she will move to a position where it is possible to maintain some level of visual/verbal contact with the clearing element. In some cases, the OIC may decide not to move closer and keep the VIP in the corner for safety reasons. If the OIC chooses this option, the detail might become separated. If this happens the detail may have to use additional signals and/or verbal warnings when coming back together. For example, the clearing element may call for the OIC and VIP to "come in" and the OIC can give additional warning prior to entering the room. One of the clearing team members can also come back out of the room and signal the VIP to enter. The main point is to ensure the two separated elements do not accidentally shoot each other.



# THREE-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 10: Advance Clears Deeper Into the Room

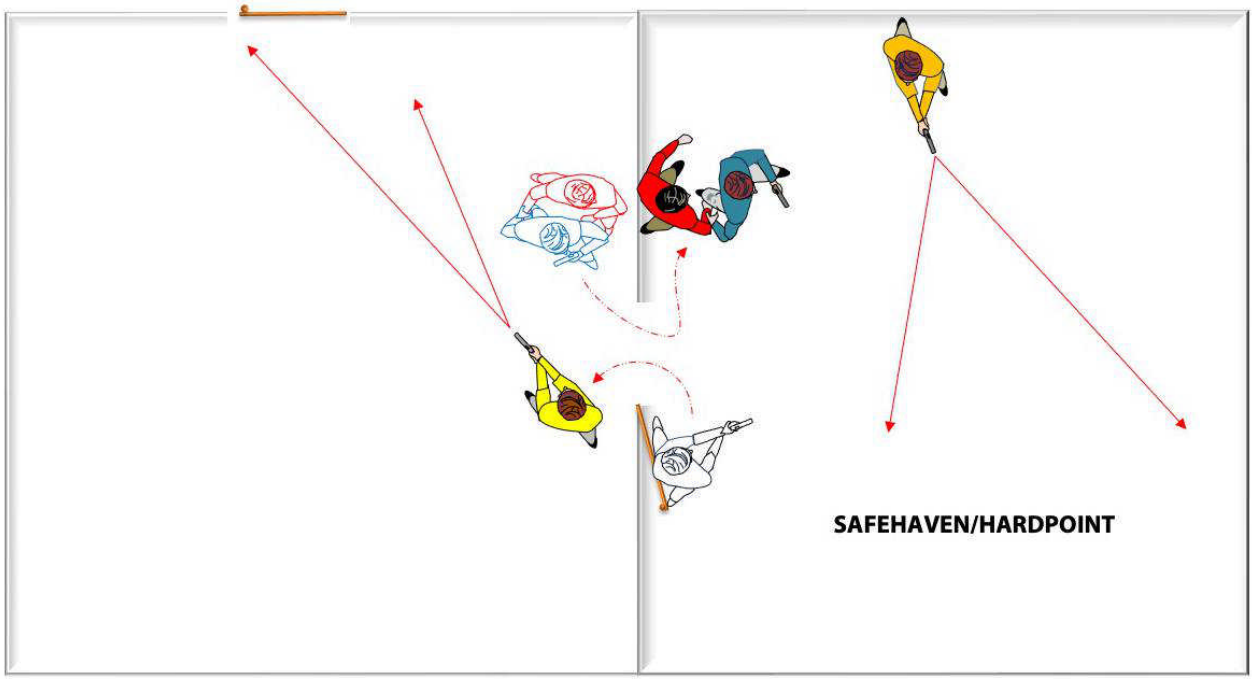
After the corners are clear, the advance will penetrate deeper into the room to clear additional danger areas or clear behind furniture etc. The SL will remain in place and control the door. When ready, the SL can turn and check behind the door to ensure no one is hiding there. The OIC will monitor the clearing process and be prepared to enter the room as soon as it is clear.



# THREE-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 11: SL Exits the Room while the OIC and VIP Enter

Once the room is clear, the SL must signal for the OIC and VIP to enter. There are a number of ways to do this. In the example below, the SL exits back out of the room and covers the rear, using a verbal or nonverbal signal to direct the OIC to enter the room. The OIC will lead the VIP into the room and begin looking for the safest place to position the VIP.



# THREE-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

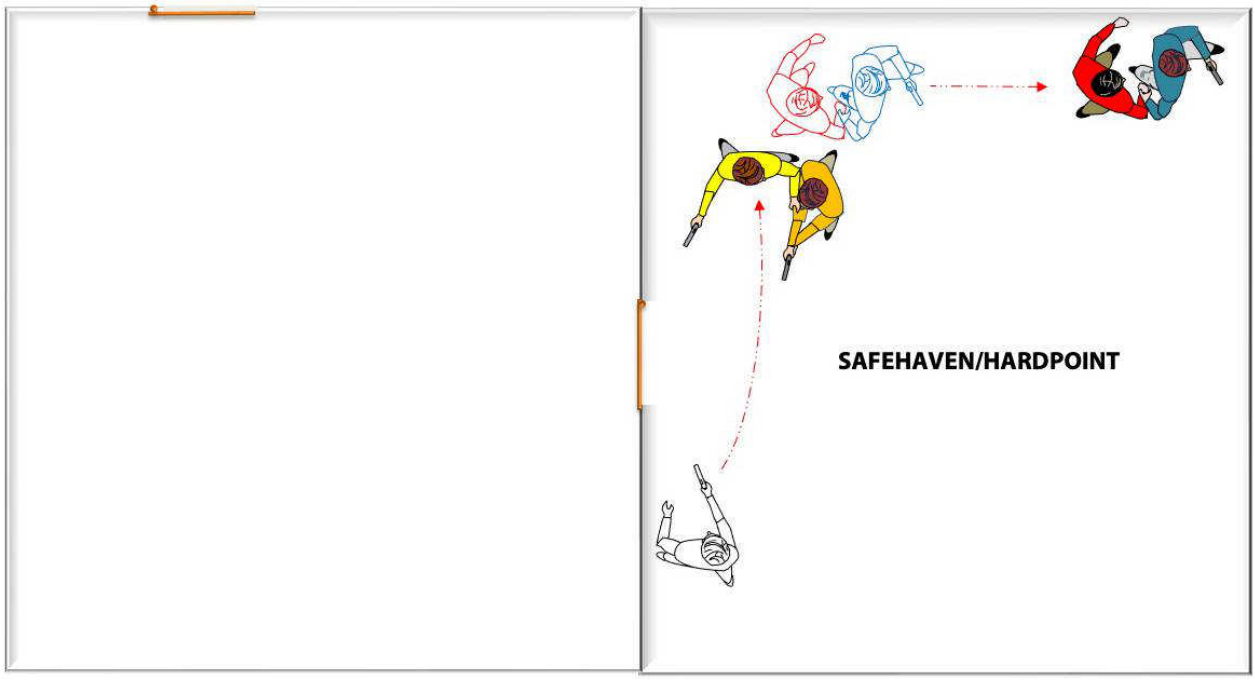
## STEP 12: SL Enters and Closes the Door

Once the detail is safely in the room, the SL will follow, closing and locking the door if possible. The advance will adjust position to provide additional cover as needed while the OIC guides the VIP to the safest location in the room.

# THREE-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 13: Detail Begins Priority of Work in the Safehaven

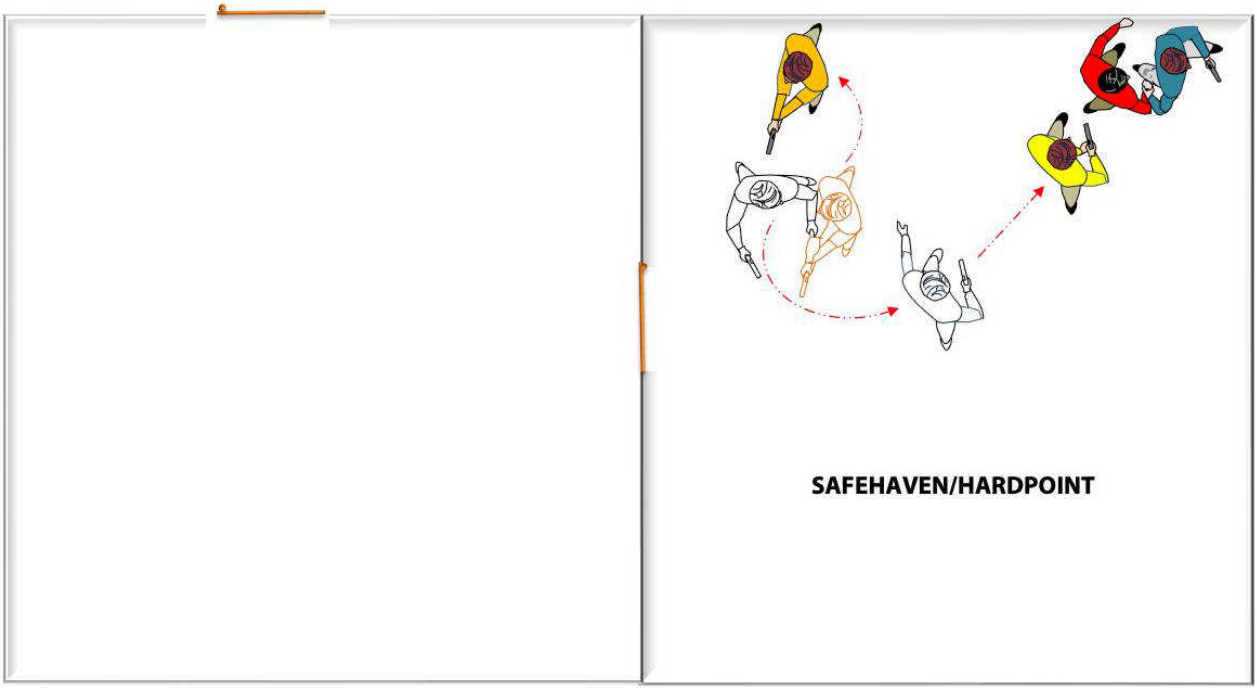
Once the OIC finds a safe spot to position the VIP, the OIC will immediately conduct his/her initial survey of the VIP, checking for injuries and other problems. The OIC will also provide water and psychological comfort/encouragement to the VIP as needed in order to keep the VIP as calm as possible. Meanwhile, the advance and SL will begin planning how best to defend the safehaven and coordinate with other units or support forces in the area to come help.



# THREE-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 14: Assist the OIC with the VIP if Necessary

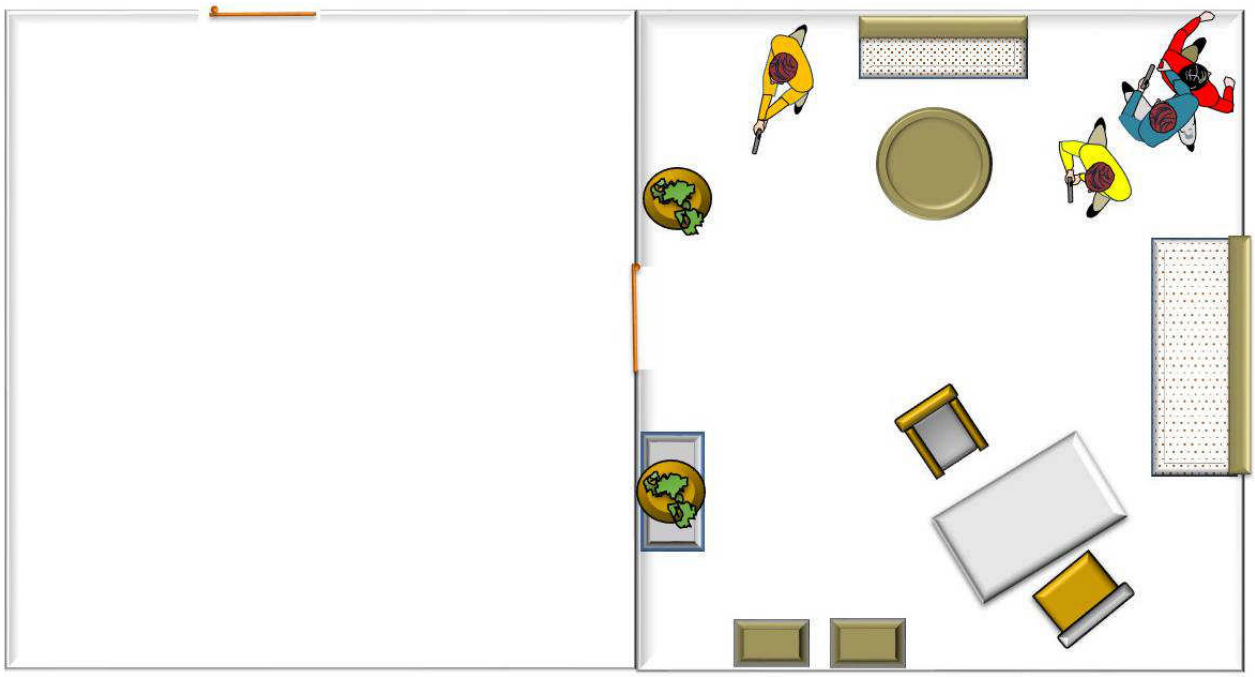
While conducting priorities of work in the safehaven, the OIC may need help with the VIP. For example, if the VIP is injured, the OIC might need an additional detail member to assist with emergency medical treatment while the remaining detail member provides cover.



# THREE-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 15: Assume Hasty Defensive Positions

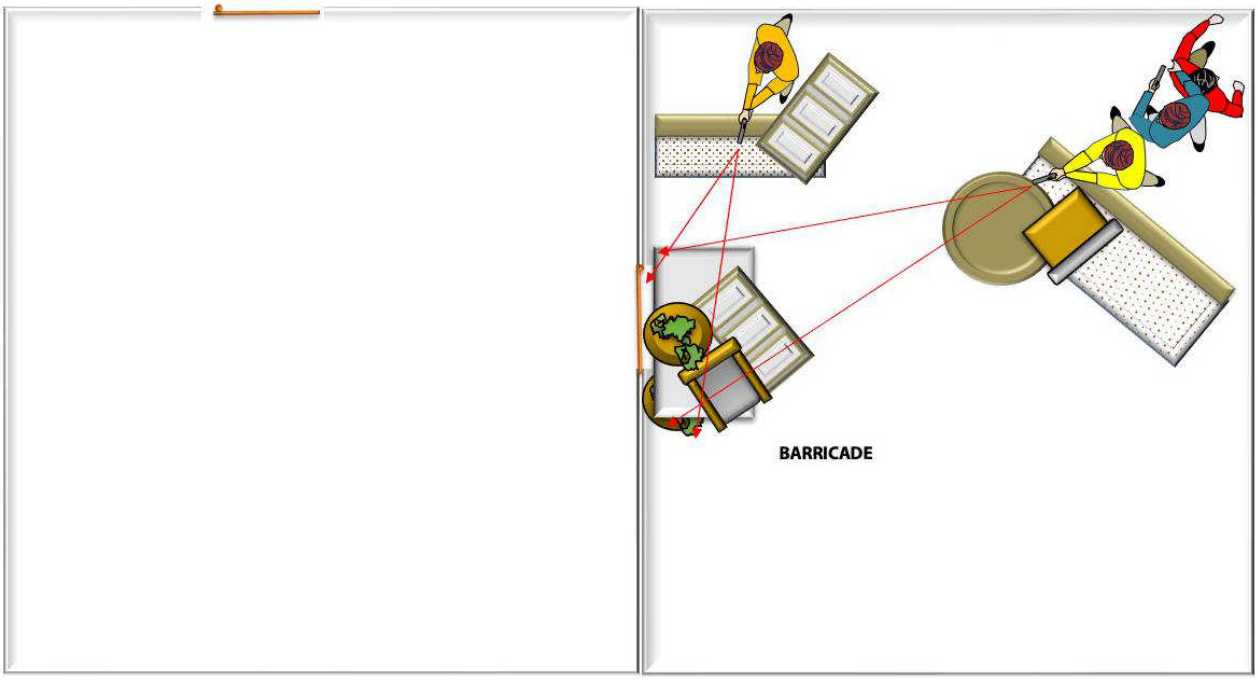
Based on the situation and the layout of furniture in the room, the detail will assume the best possible hasty defensive positions in case a threat tries to break into the room immediately. From these hasty defensive positions the detail members will begin looking around the room to decide how best to improve the defenses into a more deliberate defensive position. The OIC will continue to focus on the VIP and provide care and assistance as needed.



# THREE-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 16: Establish Deliberate Defense and Barricades

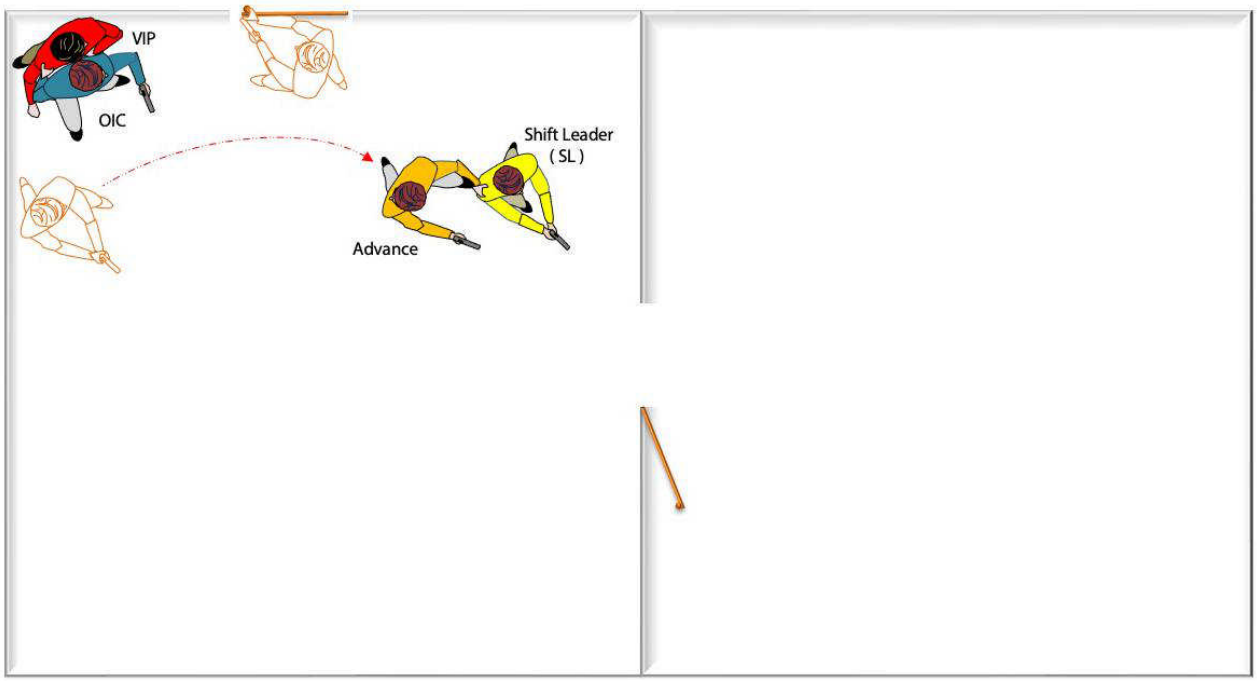
After establishing hasty defensive positions, the detail should begin to improve the defense while continuing to maintain security and assist the VIP as needed. Detail members can move furniture in the room to barricade doors and windows. The detail can also position furniture to provide cover and/or concealed firing positions within the room.



# THREE-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH SWEEP

## STEP 1: Advance Signals the SL to Begin Clearing

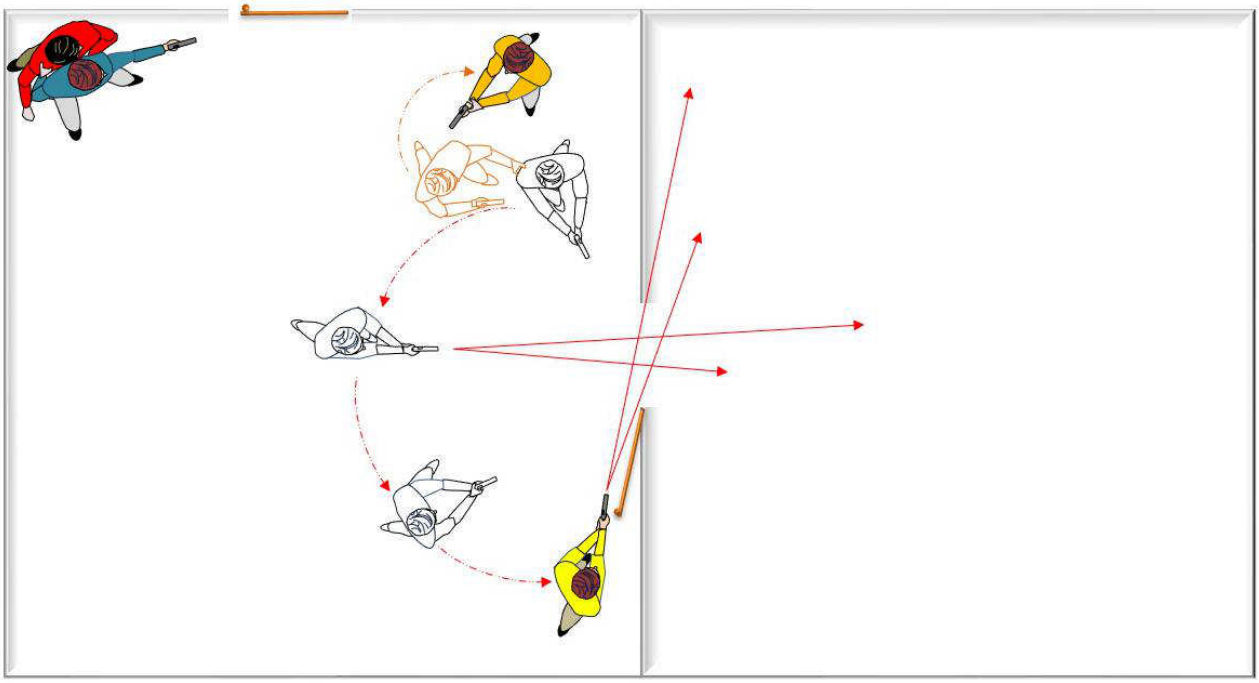
In the previous example, the detail conducted a delayed entry by having the OIC wait outside with the VIP while the other two detail members cleared the next room as a two-person element. It is possible to exercise additional caution by having one detail member conduct a sweep of the door prior to entry.



# THREE-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH SWEEP

## STEP 2: SL Conducts Initial Sweep of the Next Room

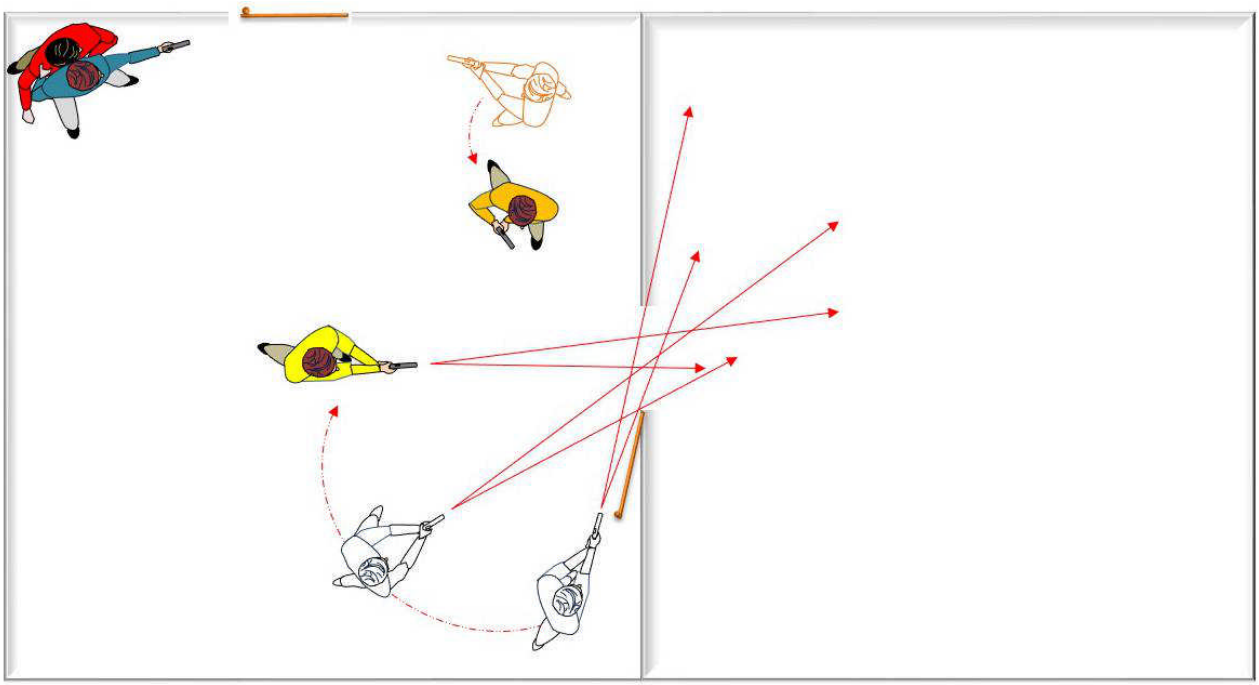
In this example, the SL will conduct the sweep while the advance waits in a position to provide help if needed. The SL will keep a good distance from the door and conduct a wide sweep if possible, clearing most of the next room from the outside. The OIC will maintain positive control of the VIP and wait for the other detail members to finish clearing before moving forward.



# THREE-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH SWEEP

## STEP 3: SL Conducts Half-Sweep Until Facing the Door

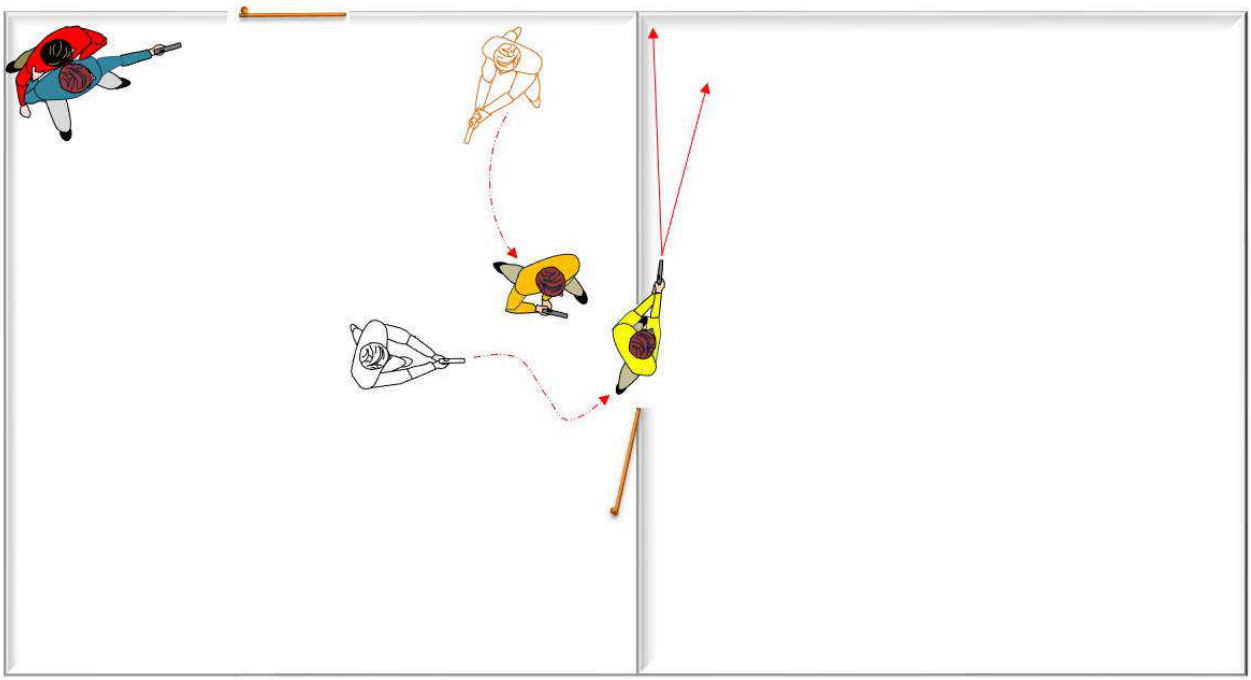
After conducting the initial sweep, the SL will sweep back in the opposite direction, stopping directly in front of the door to offer the best visibility into the middle of the room before moving towards the door. When the advance sees the SL stop facing the door, that will be a non-verbal signal for the advance to assist in the room entry. The advance will begin to move towards the door in order to enter the room directly behind the SL.



# THREE-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH SWEEP

## STEP 4: SL Leads the Way into the Next Room

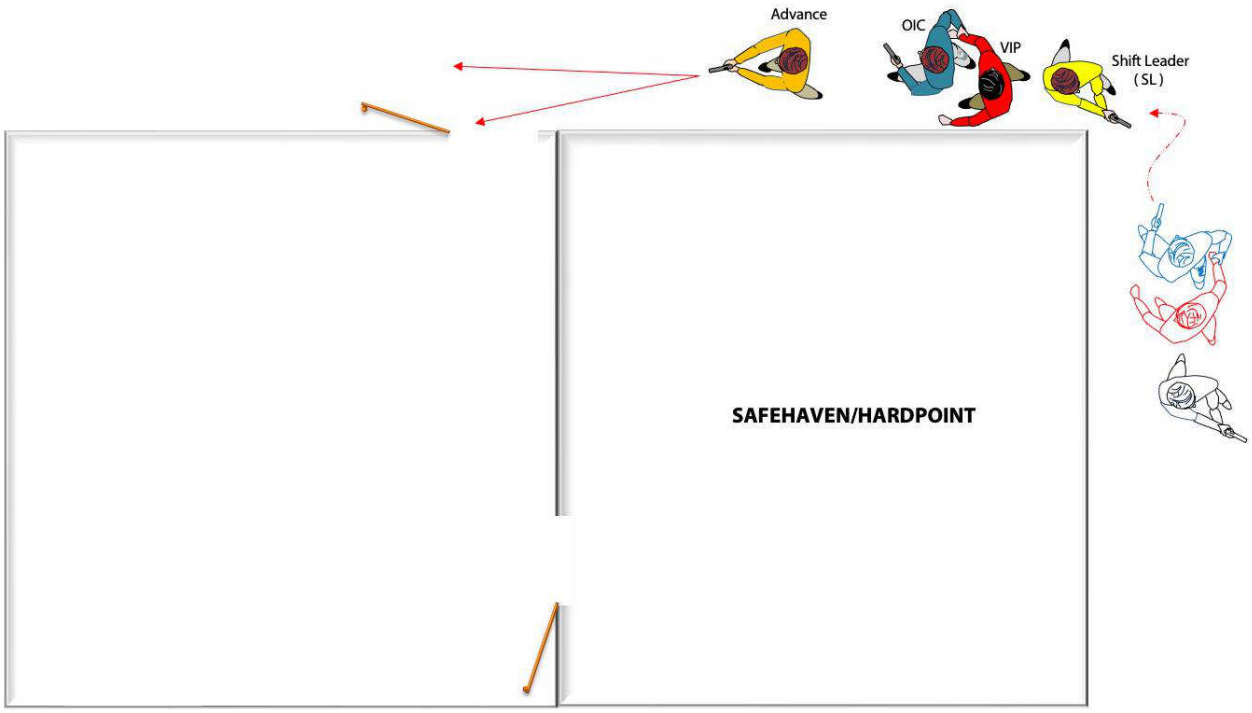
The SL will lead the way into the next room, turning to clear one of the two corners. The advance should be as close behind the SL as possible in order to clear the opposite corner and cover the SL's back. From here the detail can proceed with the same steps described in previous techniques, clearing the room, moving the VIP inside, establishing defensive positions and barricading the door as needed.



# THREE-PERSON: CORNER-FED ROOM

## STEP 1: Advance Prepares to Clear the First Room

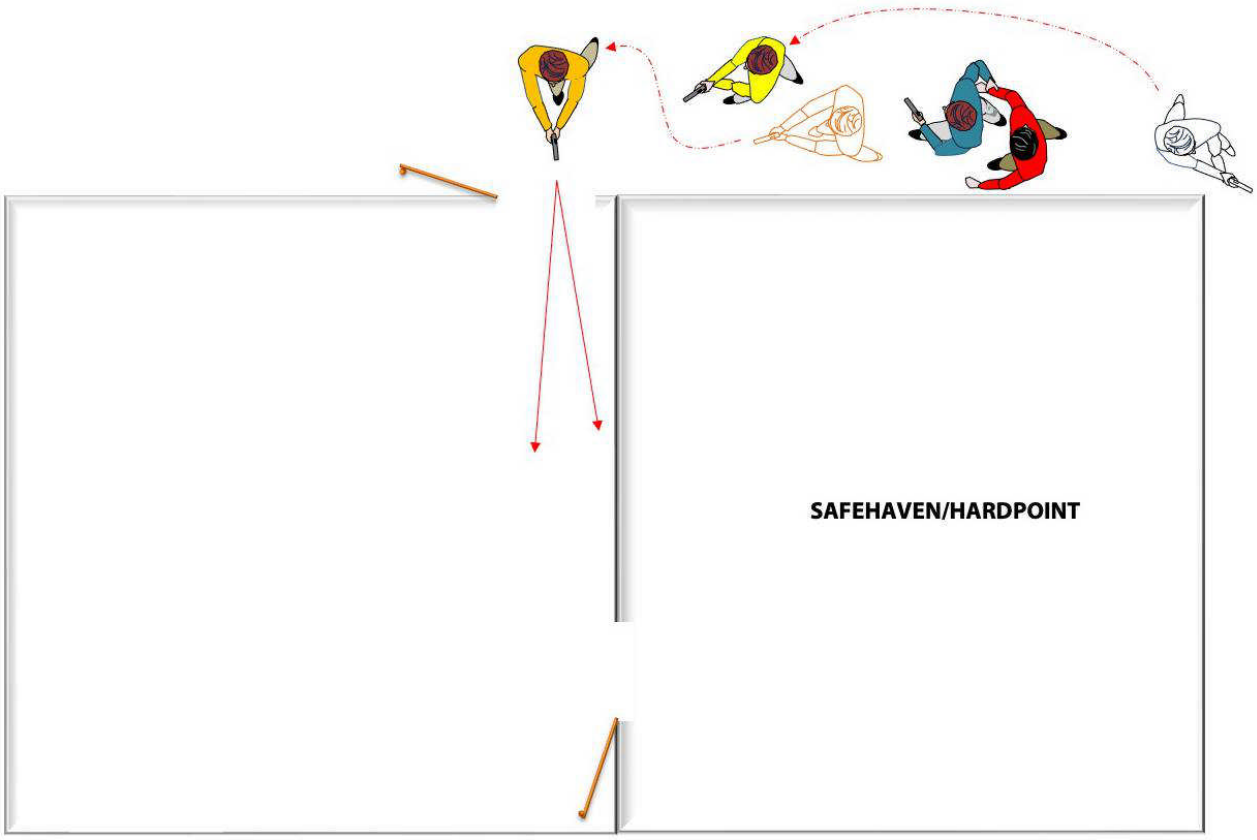
The procedures for entering a corner-fed room with a VIP are similar to the procedures for entering a center-fed room. However, the detail might have to make a few adjustments inside the room to minimize the VIP's exposure. As before, the scenario begins with the primary threat to the rear. Therefore, the detail will conduct an immediate entry into the first room in order to get the VIP out of harm's way as quickly as possible. The advance will move slightly ahead and prepare to enter the first room. The OIC follows behind maintaining positive control of the VIP using whatever control technique he/she deems appropriate for the situation. The SL provides rear security, not walking backwards but blading the body in a natural posture and looking over the shoulder as needed to scan for threats.



# THREE-PERSON: CORNER-FED ROOM

## STEP 2: Advance Swings out to Clear the Doorway

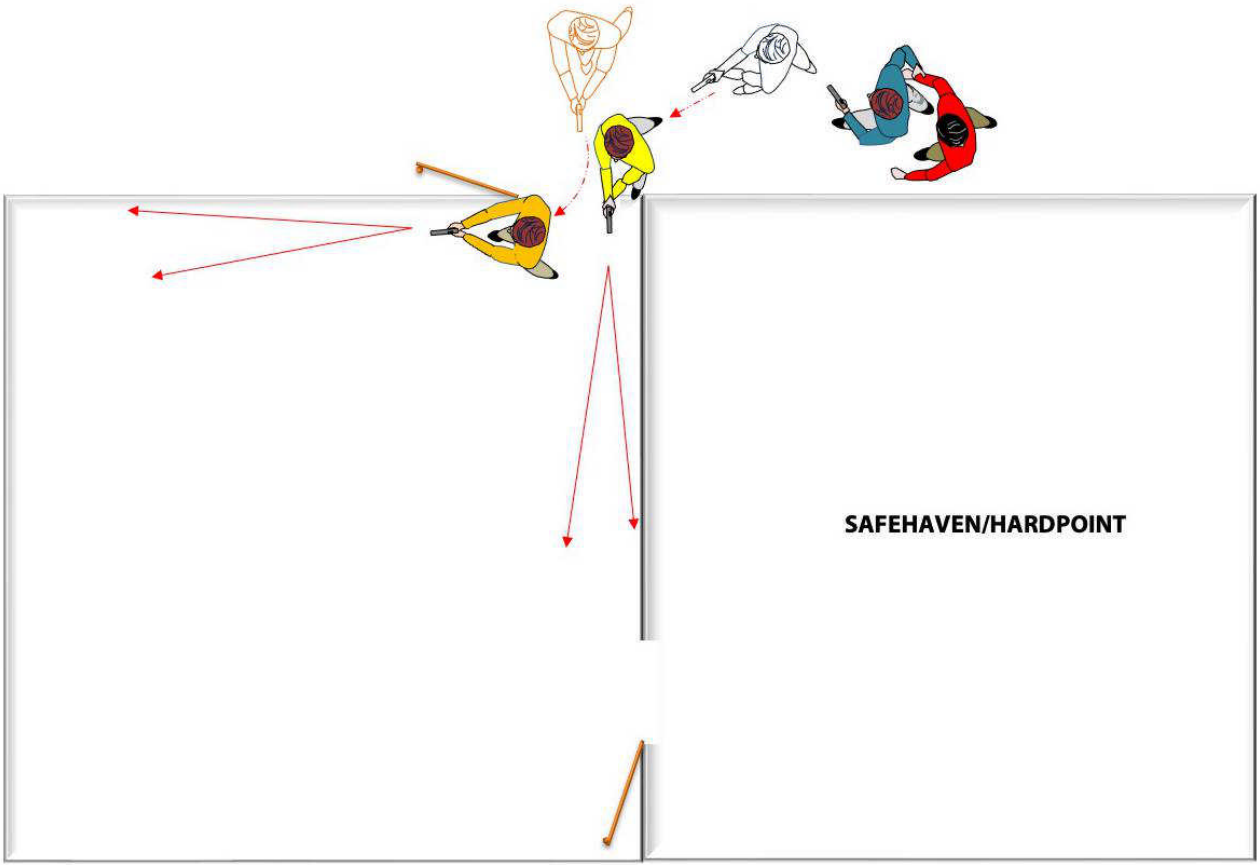
Prior to entering the room, the advance will swing out in an arc to clear the doorway and begin clearing the interior of the room from the outside. Notice that in this example, the advance and SL decide to lead the way into the room, momentarily giving up rear security. The SL moves forward, around the OIC and VIP into a position to support the advance. It is therefore important for the OIC to remain alert and watch out for threats coming from the rear.



# THREE-PERSON: CORNER-FED ROOM

## STEP 3: Advance Clears the First Corner

Given that the area to the front is already visually clear, the advance will first turn towards the unknown corner. The SL will follow directly behind and move in the opposite direction, clearing to the front and then scanning inward towards the center of the room.



# THREE-PERSON: CORNER-FED ROOM

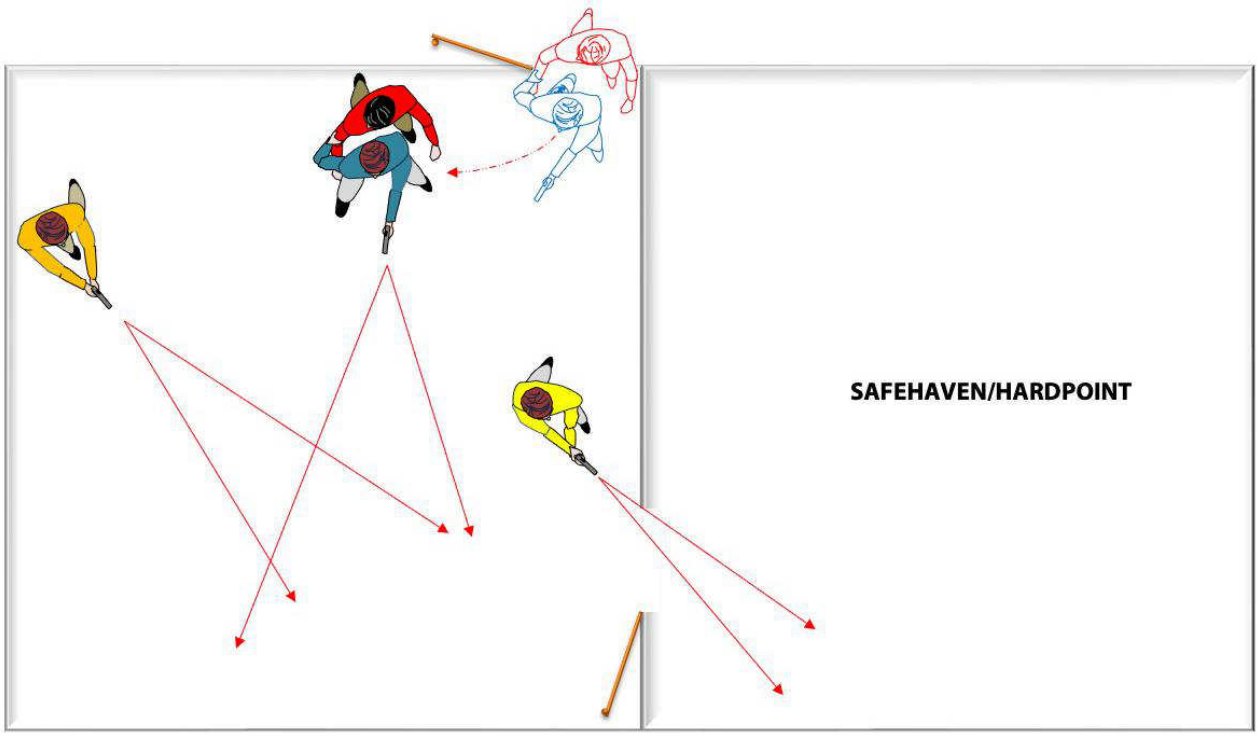
## STEP 4: Advance and SL Dominate the Room

The advance and SL move deeper into the room to their domination points, clearing behind furniture and covering additional danger areas as needed. In this scenario, the SL identifies an open door to his/her left. The SL adjusts position, widening out to have a better angle of coverage through the open door. The SL could also hold short and allow the advance to push forward and cover the open door. Meanwhile, the OIC is staying slightly back with the VIP to allow time for the advance and SL to confirm the room is clear.

# THREE-PERSON: CORNER-FED ROOM

## STEP 5: OIC Leads VIP Into the Room

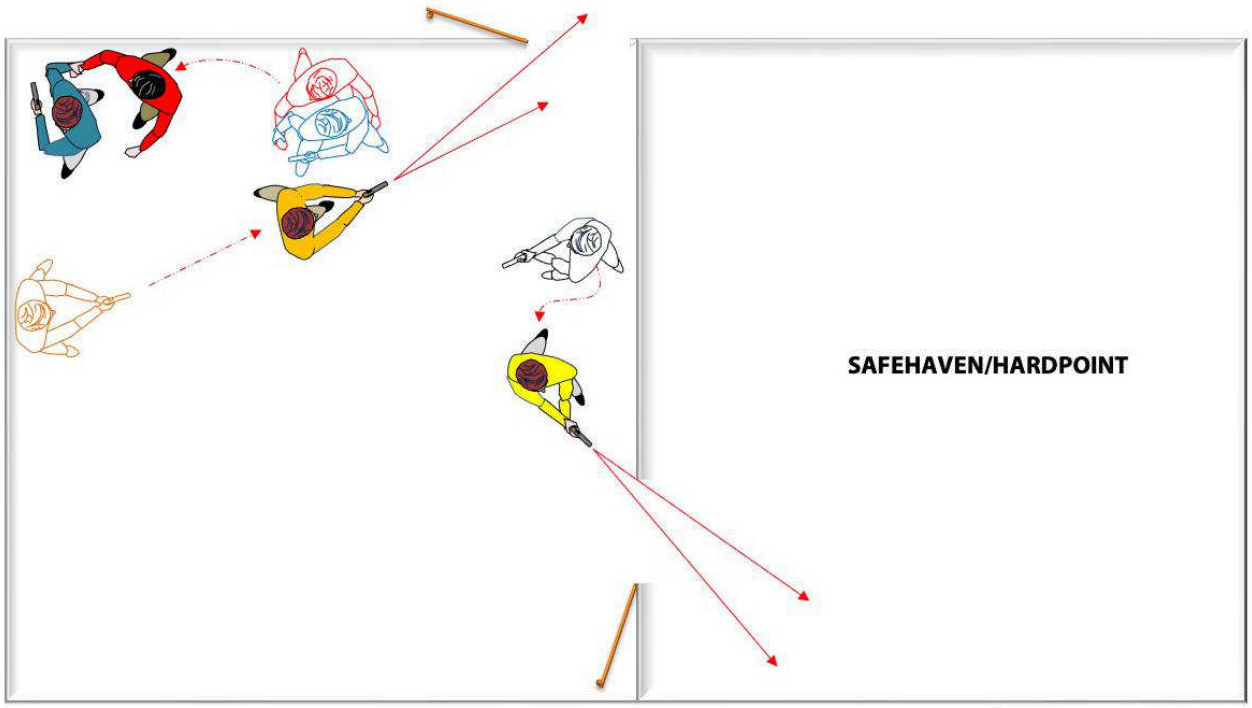
As the other two detail members establish domination points in the room, the OIC will lead the VIP into the room and begin looking for the safest place to position the VIP. The OIC can also have his/her gun drawn to assist the other detail members with clearing the room and covering danger areas.



# THREE-PERSON: CORNER-FED ROOM

## STEP 6: OIC Moves VIP to the Corner

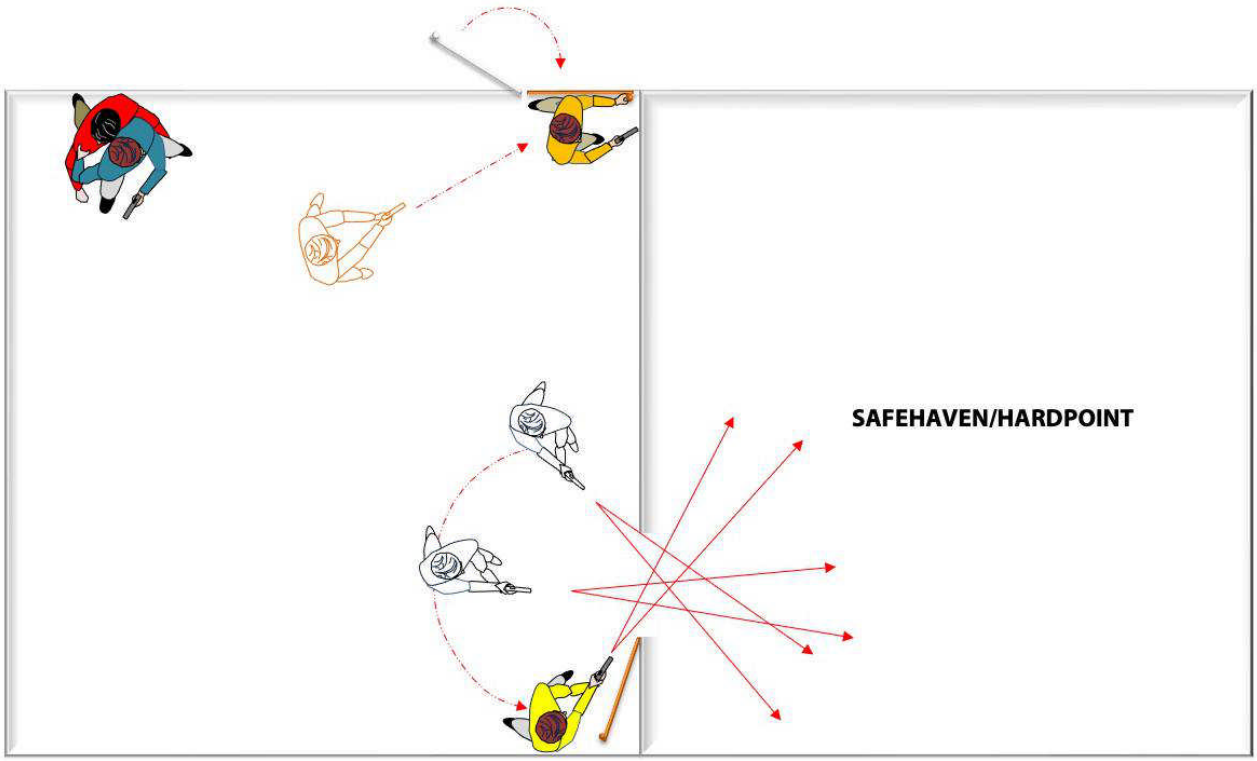
Just as with a two-person detail, when entering a corner-fed, a three-person detail may need to adjust the detail's positioning within the room to best protect the VIP. In this case, the advance and OIC/VIP essentially swap positions, allowing the OIC to keep the VIP safe in the corner while the advance provides rear security, covering the entry door. This also puts the advance in a good position to close and lock the door if possible. The SL will maintain coverage of the open door to his/her left.



# THREE-PERSON: CORNER-FED ROOM

## STEP 7: SL Conducts Initial Sweep of the Open Door

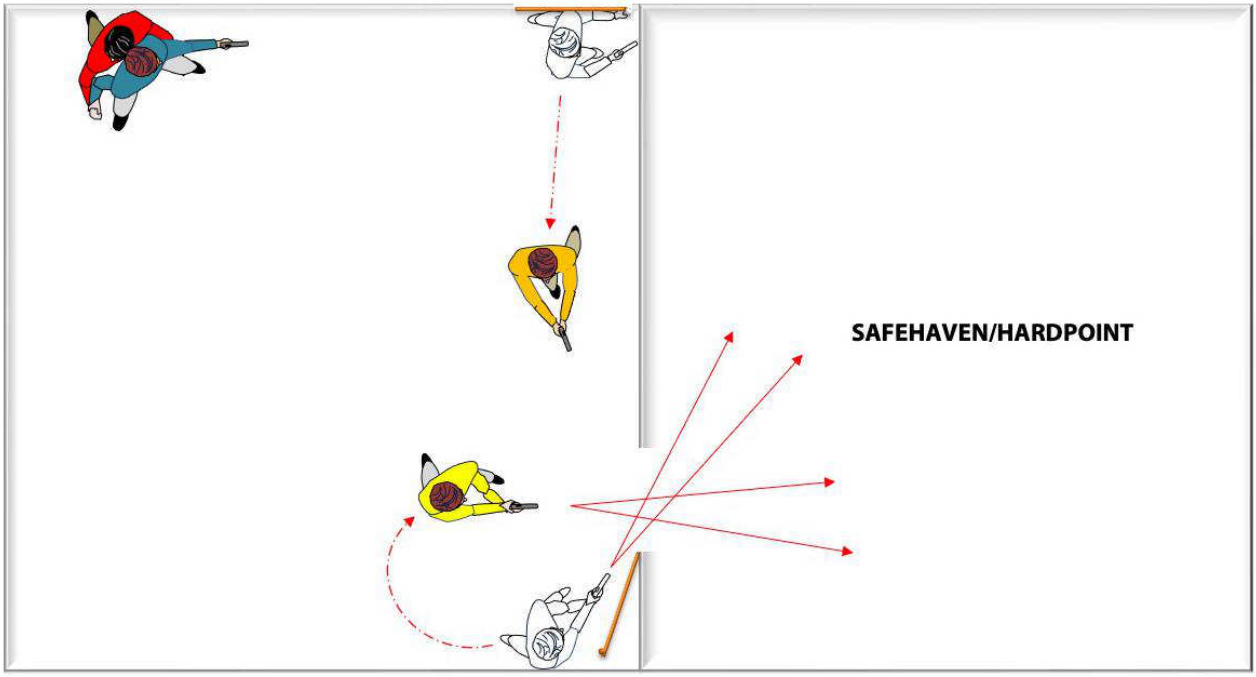
In some of the previous examples, the detail member covering an open door held position as a signal that he/she wanted an additional detail member to help clear the room. In this case, the SL does not pause but instead immediately conducts a sweep of the next room. This allows the advance to focus attention elsewhere, closing and locking the entry door. The OIC remains focused on keeping the VIP protected.



# THREE-PERSON: CORNER-FED ROOM

## STEP 8: SL Conducts Half-Sweep

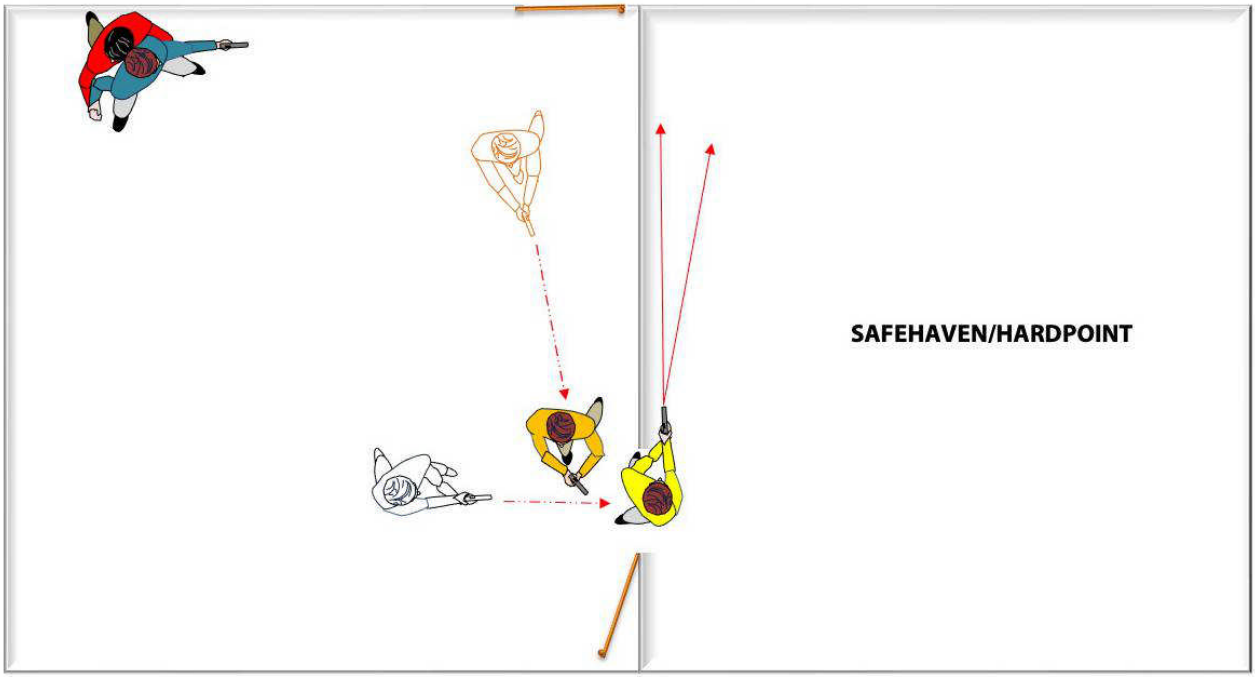
After completing the initial sweep, the SL sweeps back in the opposite direction until he/she is facing the door. Meanwhile, the advance has finished closing and locking the door and moves in the direction of the SL to be in position to help clear the next room if needed. At this point, if the SL wants to minimize exposure for the team by clearing the next room alone, the SL can signal the advance to hold position with a hand/arm signal. However, in most cases, the SL will benefit from an additional detail member helping to clear the room and will not signal the advance to hold.



# THREE-PERSON: CORNER-FED ROOM

## STEP 9: SL Clears the First Corner

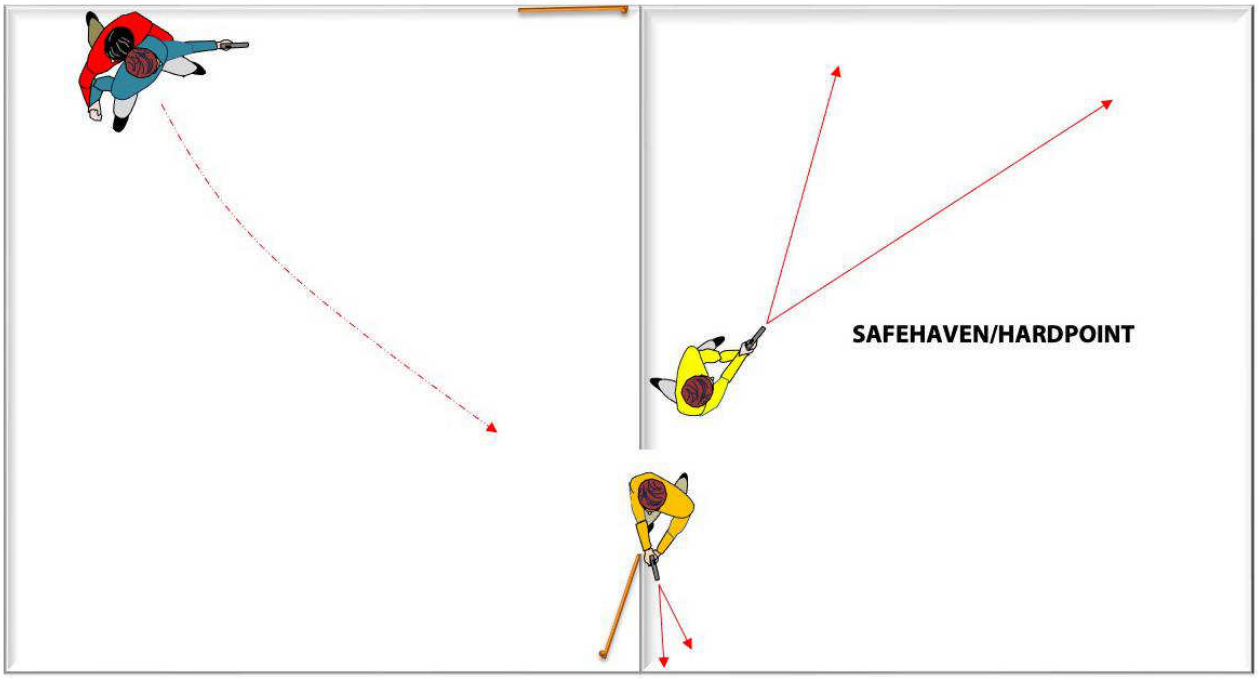
The SL moves towards the door and turns left to clear the corner. The advance should move as quickly as possible to enter the room right behind the SL in order to cover the SL's back. The OIC remains in place and covers the initial entry door while shielding the VIP with his/her body.



# THREE-PERSON: CORNER-FED ROOM

## STEP 10: Advance Clears the Opposite Corner

As the advance quickly turns to clear the opposite corner, the SL continues to move deeper into the room, clearing behind any furniture and covering additional danger areas as needed. Once the SL and advance enter the next room, the OIC will generally want to move closer to the door in order to maintain visual contact with the rest of the detail if possible and minimize the chances of friendly fire. From here the detail can proceed with the same steps described in previous techniques, moving the VIP inside the safehaven, establishing defensive positions, and barricading the door as needed.



# ROOM CLEARING
# Four-Person Escort Detail

Adding a fourth person to the escort detail offers the greatest degree of flexibility and security short of a full-sized detail. A three-person detail includes the OIC, advance and SL but adds a fourth detail member. In the following examples, the fourth member will be the Right Rear (RR) but in a real situation the fourth member might be the Left Rear (LR), limo driver or follow car driver depending on the composition and organization of the detail.

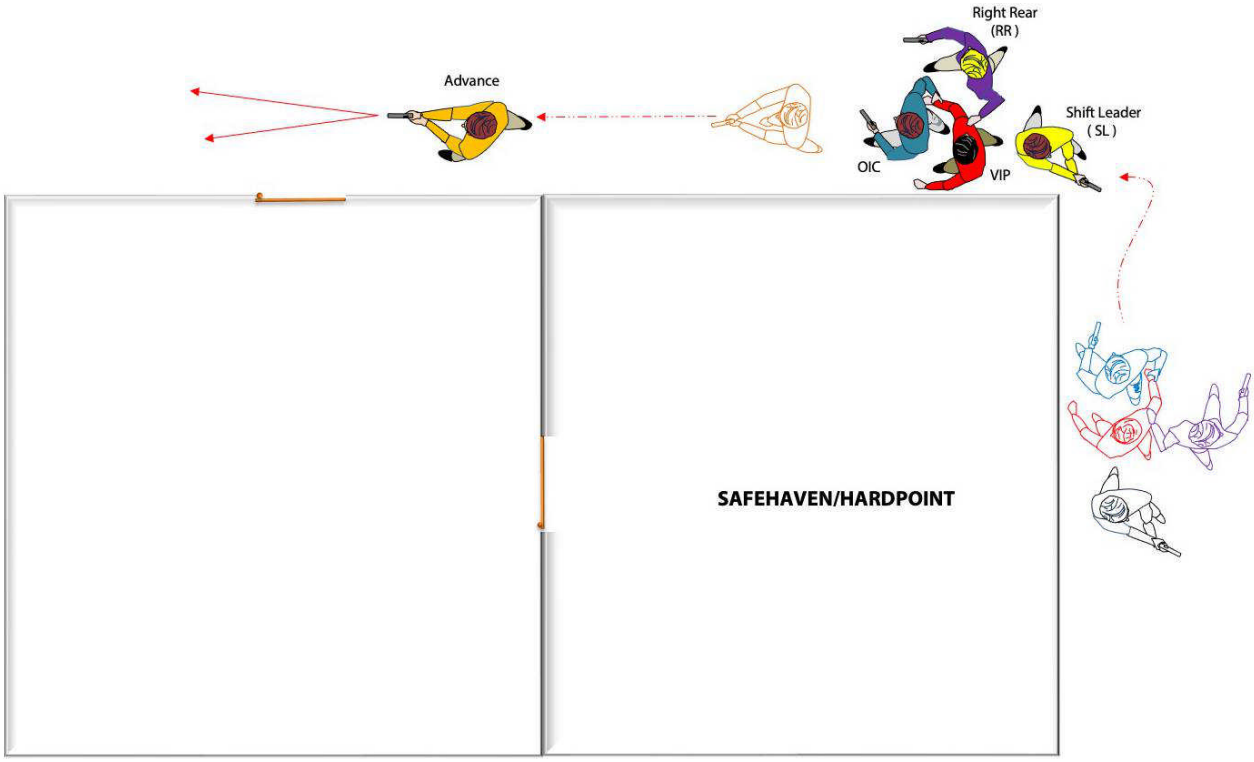
The fourth detail member gives the detail many options when focusing security in different directions. It allows deploying two personnel to cover one direction while still leaving an additional detail member to cover the opposite direction. In extreme cases, the detail can push three members to clear a room or engage a threat while the OIC stays with the VIP. There is also increased flexibility for simultaneous clearing of multiple danger areas and the ability for all four detail members to form a protective ring around the VIP with coverage in four directions.

A four-person detail must still choose whether to employ immediate or delayed entry techniques but the four detail members offer even more clearing options. The detail can conduct an immediate entry with all detail members, or a delayed entry with one, two or three detail members clearing ahead of the VIP. The detail can send two members to conduct singleton, simultaneous clearance of two different rooms while still having two personnel remain with the VIP. In short, there are many different ways to employ the four detail members depending on the situation and the threat.

# FOUR-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 1: Advance Moves Towards the Entry Door

In this scenario, the threat is initially identified to be coming primarily from the rear, which means the detail will execute an immediate entry to get the VIP inside the room as quickly as possible. First, the advance will move forward away from the rest of the detail to prepare to lead the way into the first room.



# FOUR-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 2: Advance Pushes Past the Closed Door

In this scenario, the advance sees that the door opens out and the detail is approaching the door from the hinges side. Therefore, to speed initial entry into the room the advance bypasses the door and covers to the front. Seeing this, the Right Rear (RR) breaks away from the detail and prepares to open the door for the advance. In this scenario it is also possible for the advance to open the door and lead the way into the room with the rest of the detail members keeping the door open and flush against the exterior wall.

# FOUR-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

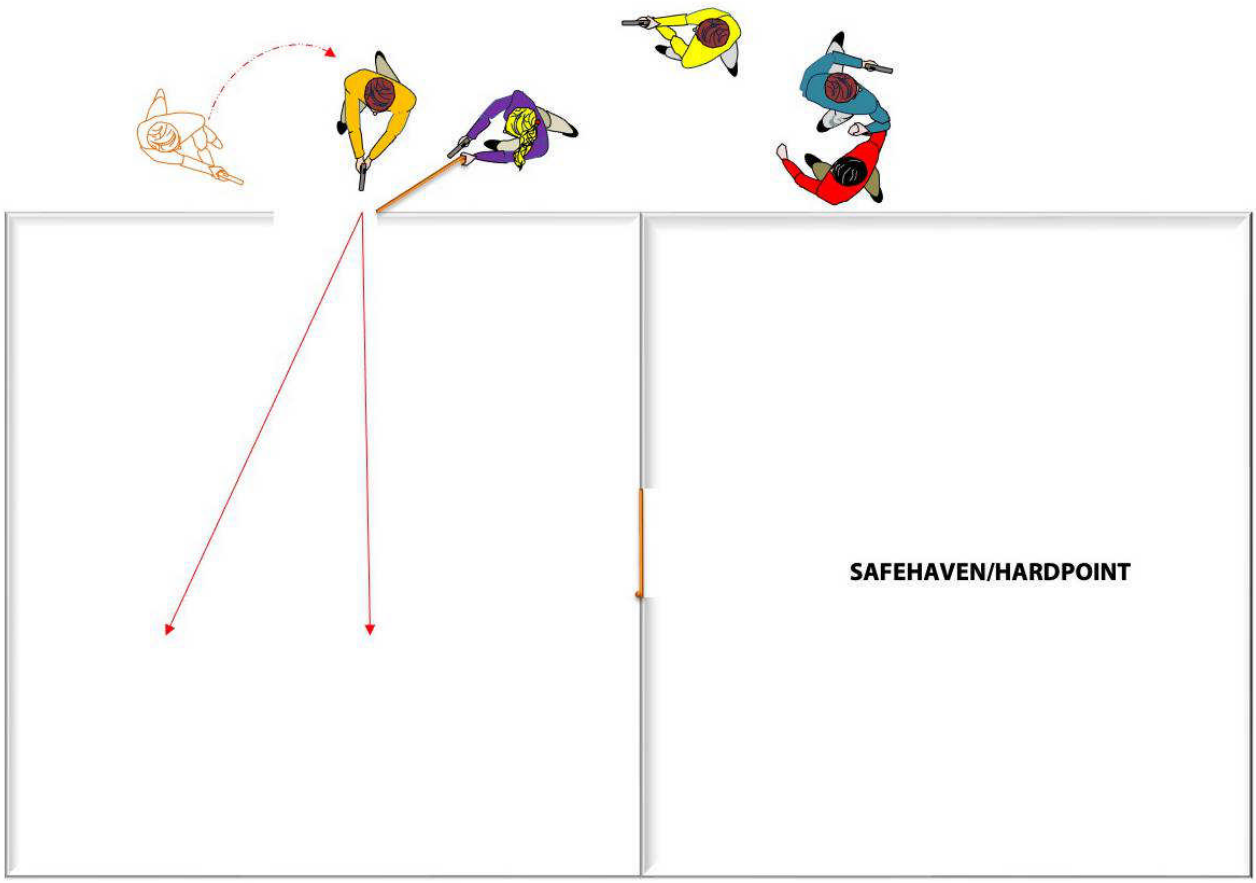
## STEP 3: Right Rear Prepares to Open the Door

As the RR prepares to open the door, the advance will turn around and prepare to enter. The rest of the detail members will position themselves to best shield the VIP while momentarily waiting to follow the advance and RR into the room. With a larger detail, it is important to remain dispersed and not crowd around the door to ensure that the entire detail cannot be disabled with a single burst of fire or explosion.

# FOUR-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 4: Advance Swings Out to Clear the Doorway

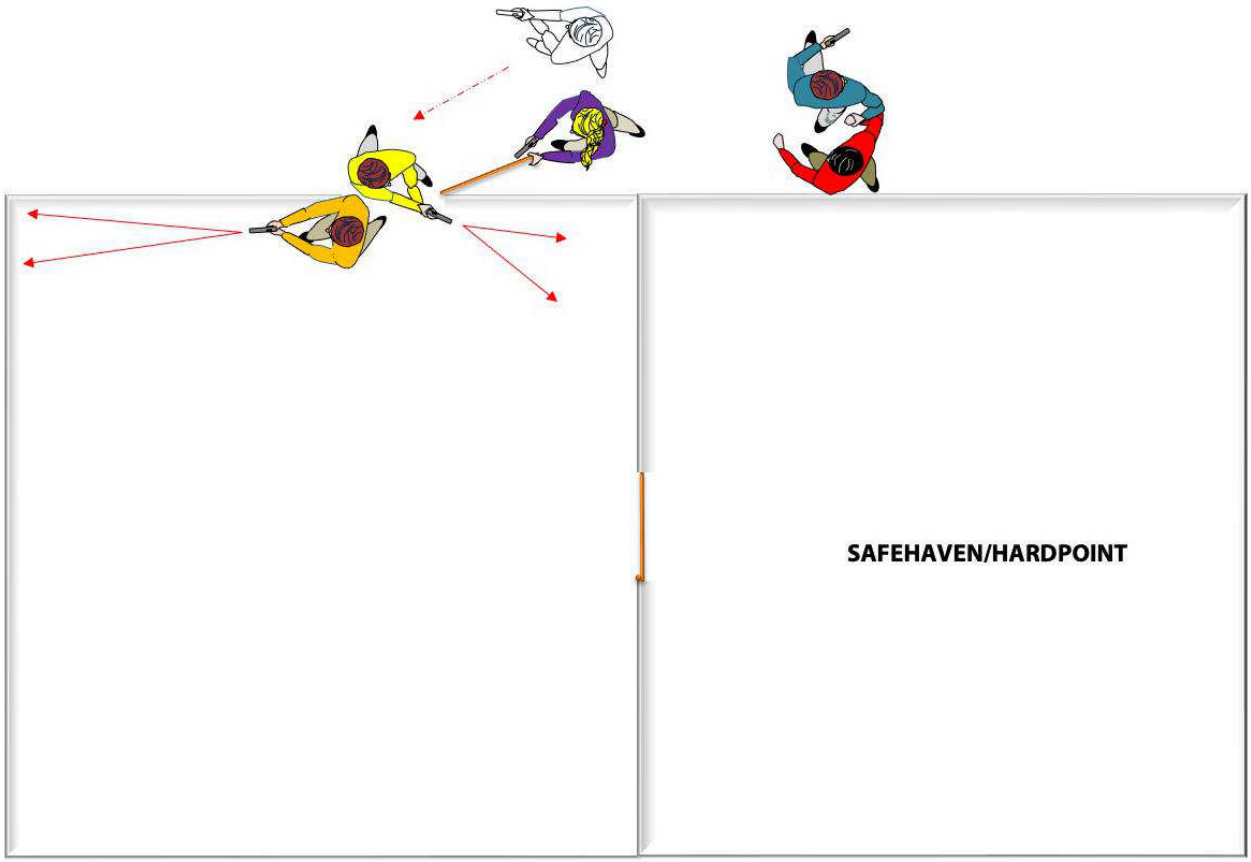
As the RR opens the door, the advance will swing out to clear the middle of the room from the outside. The rest of the detail should not be impatient and crowd around the door but should maintain some distance if possible.



# FOUR-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 5: Advance and SL Clear the Corners

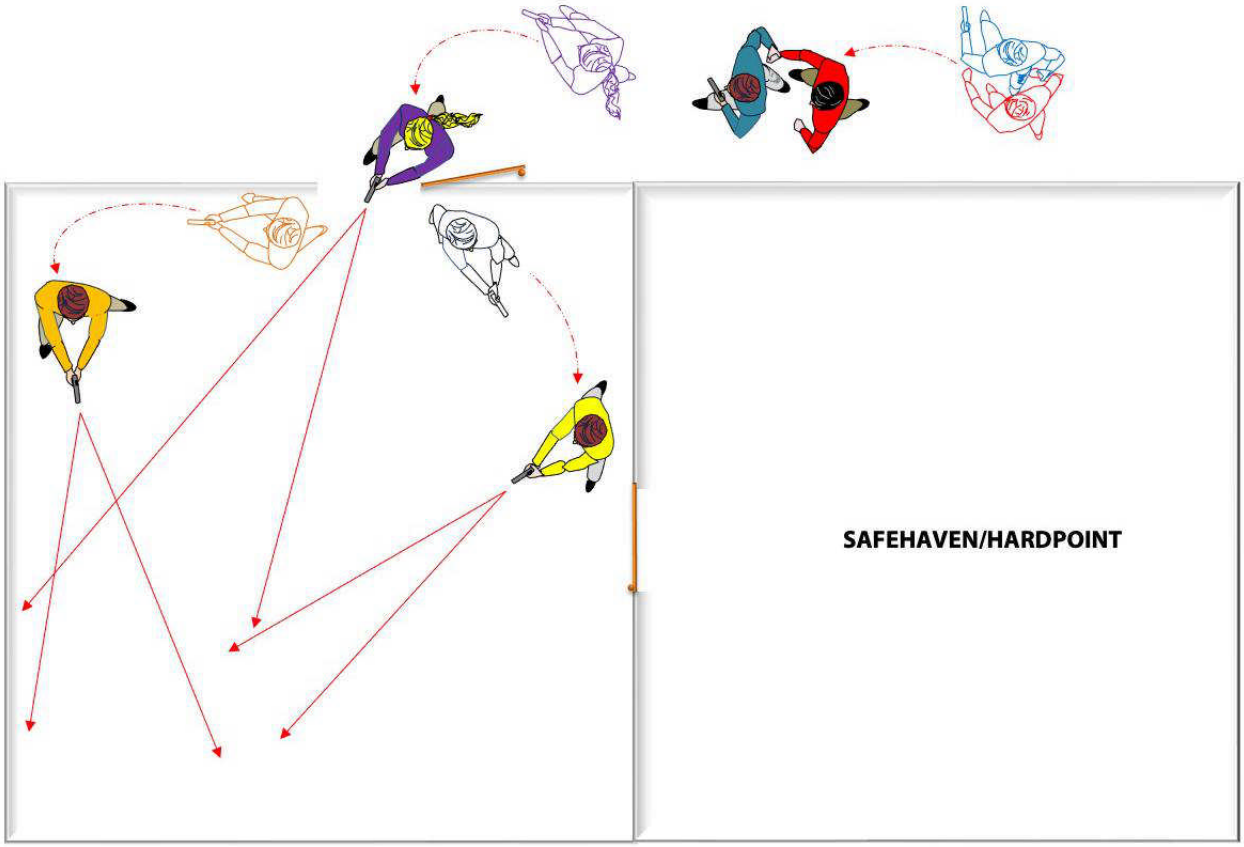
The advance enters the room and clears the first corner. In the example below, the SL speeds up and follows right behind the advance clearing the other corner while the RR maintains control of the door. In other cases, the RR might follow directly behind the advance. In most cases you will not be able to pre-plan every detail member's exact movements. Instead, the detail must maintain free-flowing flexibility and situational awareness.



# FOUR-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 6: Advance, SL and RR Dominate the Room

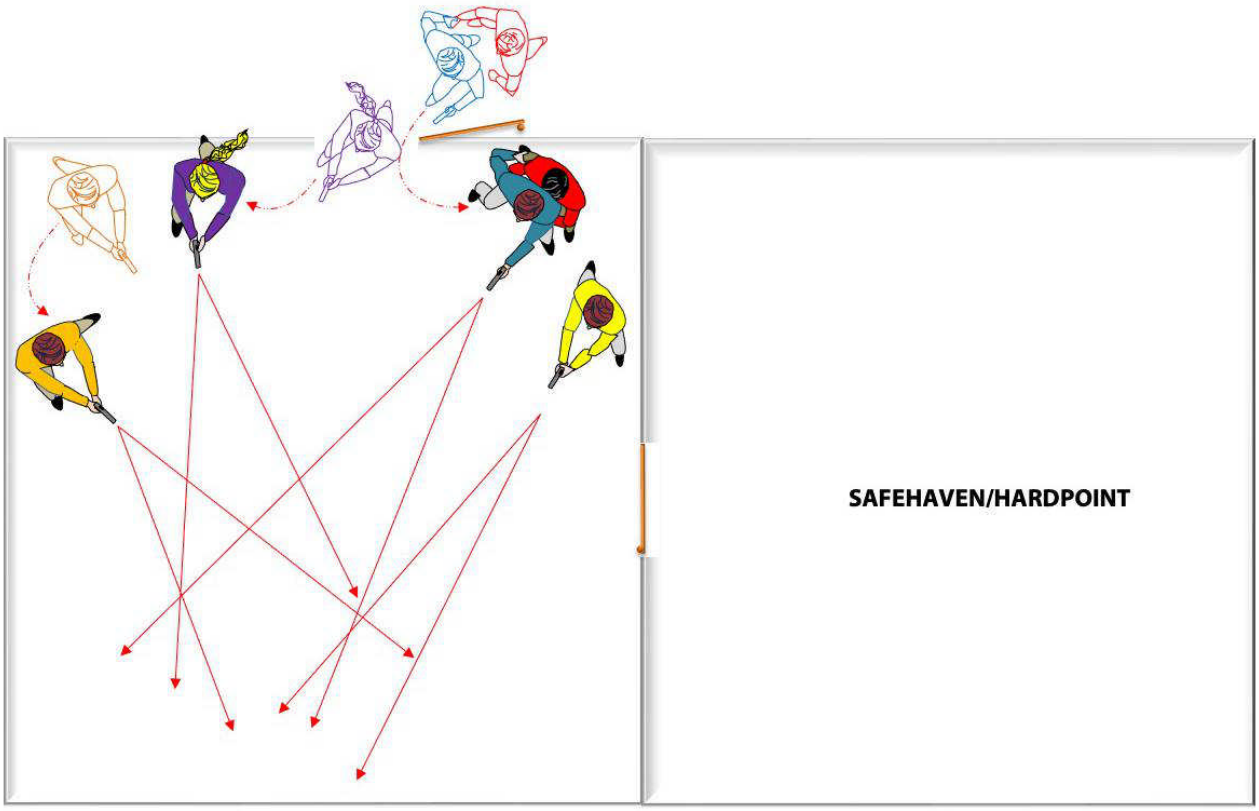
The advance and SL penetrate deeper into the room while moving to their respective domination points, clearing behind furniture, and covering danger areas as needed. The RR enters the room and focuses attention on the middle of the room. The OIC brings the VIP into the room last. As discussed earlier, depending on the direction of the most serious threat, instead of sending three detail members into the room before the VIP, the detail might keep one or two additional detail members in the rear to provide rear security.



# FOUR-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 7: Full Detail Enters the Room

Once the OIC brings the VIP into the room, the entire detail will be inside the room and each detail member will have moved to a domination point. Until one detail member has time to close and lock the door, the detail member closest to the door should quickly turn to provide rear security for the detail.



# FOUR-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

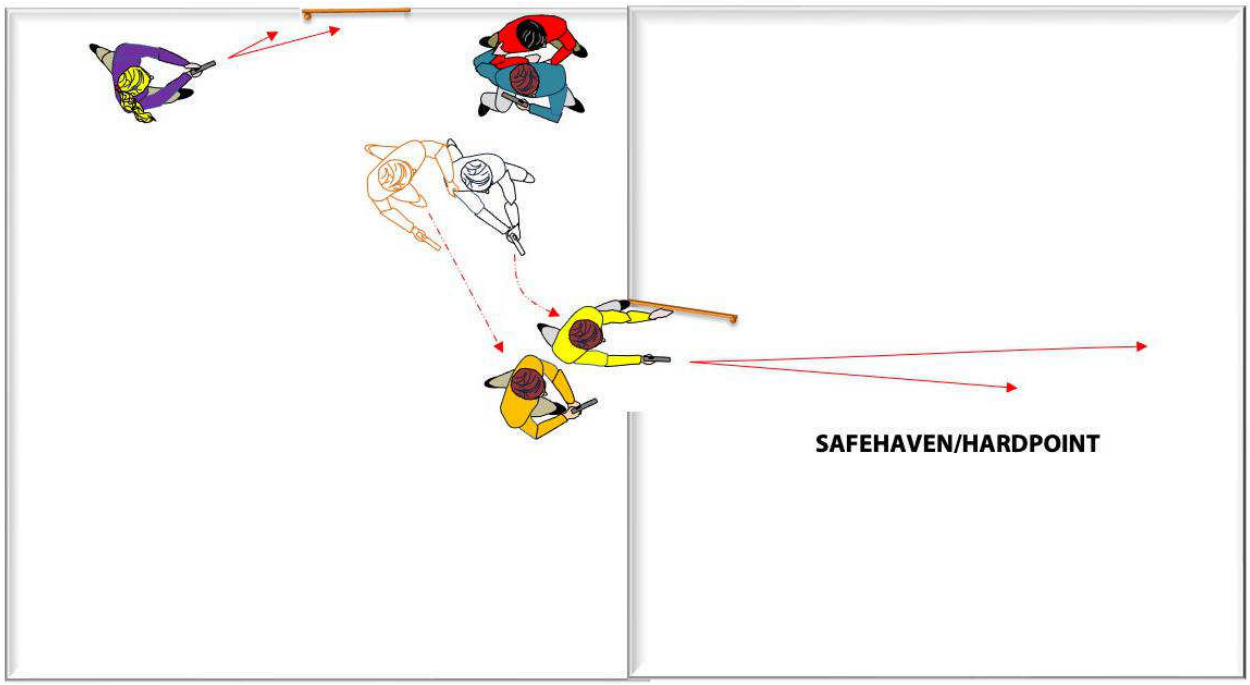
## STEP 8: Advance and SL Move to Clear the Next Room

The RR shuts and locks the door while the OIC moves the VIP into the corner of the room, shielding the VIP with his/her body. The detail will employ a delayed entry technique to clear the next room, sending only two detail members while the other two members and the VIP stay back to wait until the room is clear. The SL and advance move towards the closed door and prepare to enter.

# FOUR-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 9: SL and Advance Enter the Next Room

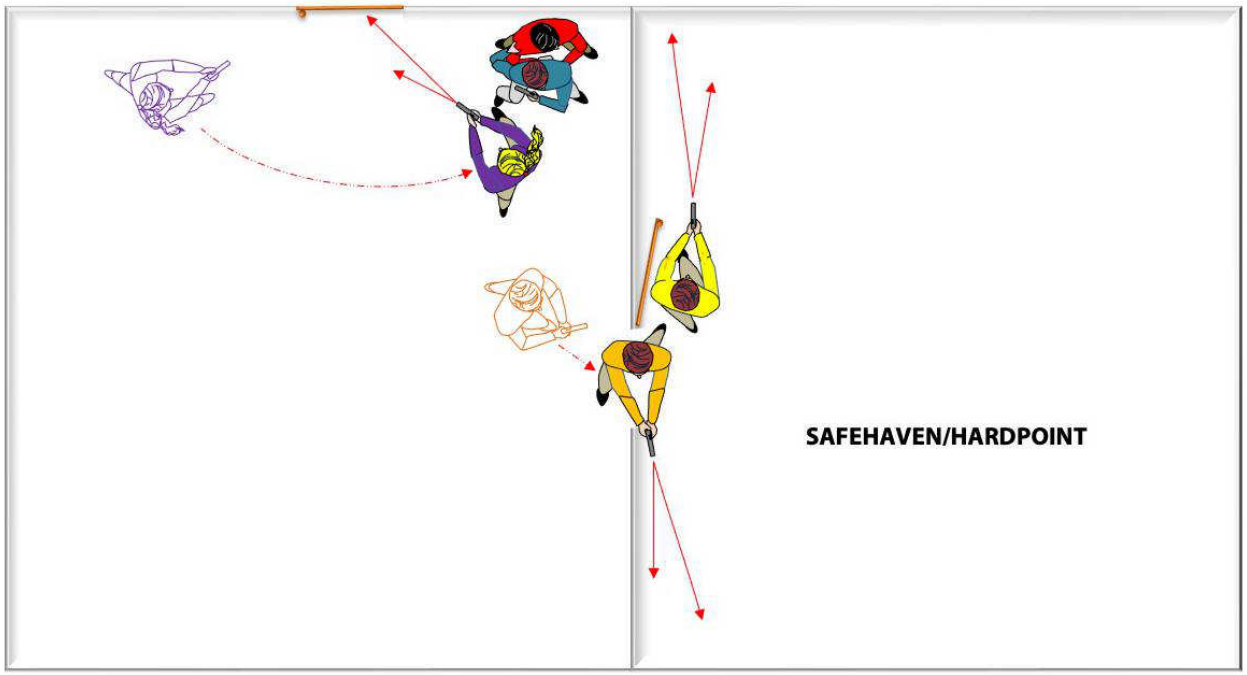
When ready, the advance delivers a firm squeeze to the SL as the ready signal for entering the room. There are many ways for the two detail members to enter using both immediate and delayed two-person clearing techniques. In this case, the SL decides to self-breach, opening the door and then leading the way into the room with the advance following behind. Meanwhile, the RR maintains rear security on the entry door while the OIC continues to protect the VIP in the corner of the room.



# FOUR-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 10: SL and Advance Clear Both Corners

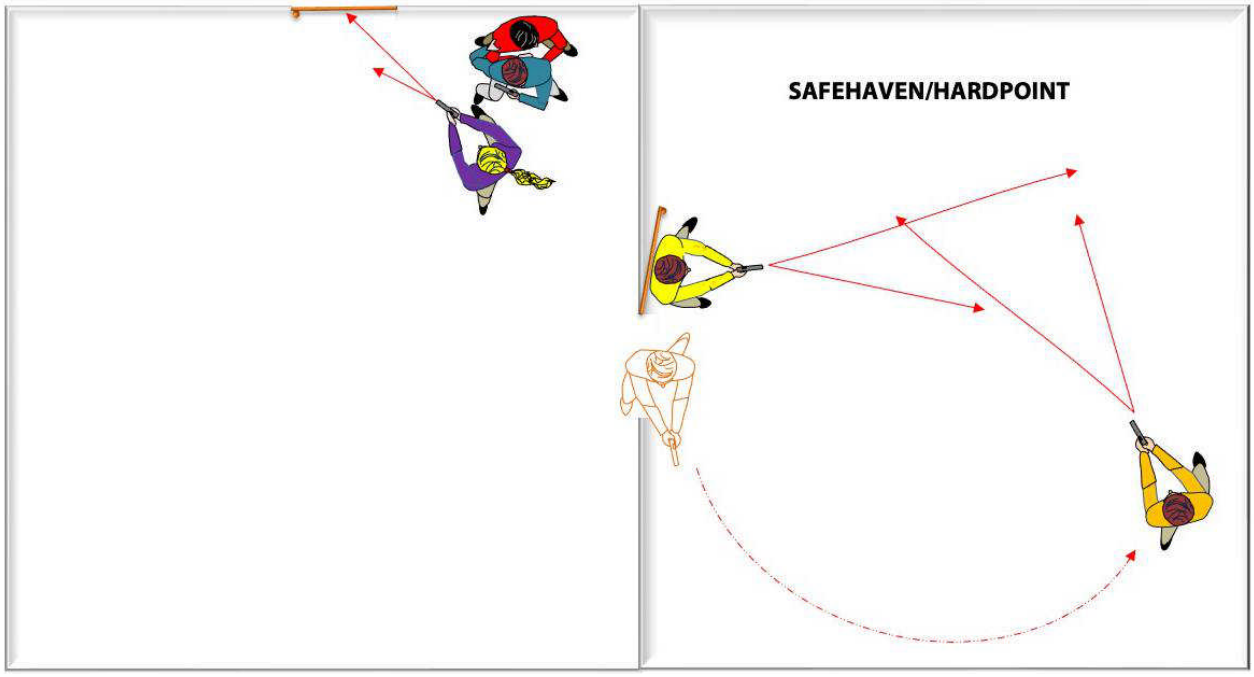
The SL and advance quickly enter the room and clear both corners. Meanwhile rest of the detail moves closer to the door and repositions as necessary to provide the best possible security for the VIP. In this case, the RR swings around to provide additional body coverage for the VIP as the advance and SL enter the next room.



# FOUR-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 11: Advance Penetrates Deeper into the Room

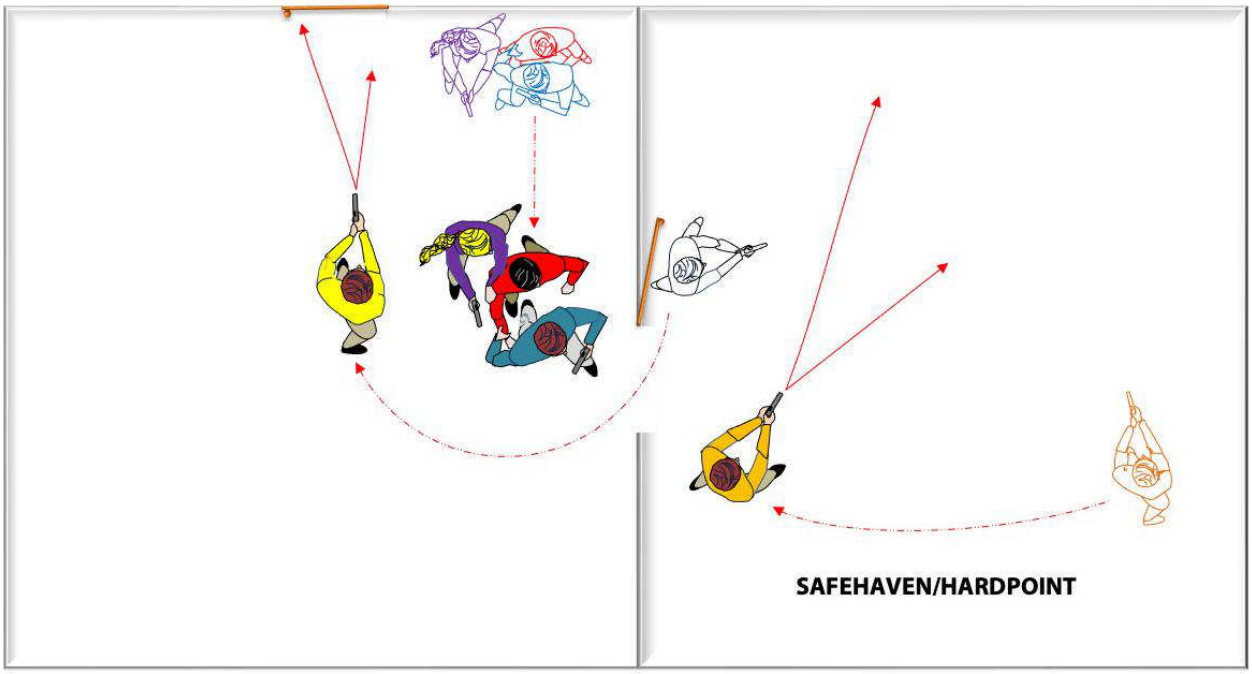
Because the door opens inward, the SL stops and controls the door while the advance is able to swing around and move deeper into the room as needed in order to check behind furniture and ensure the room is safe for the VIP to enter. Before bringing the VIP into the room, one of the detail members should also quickly check to make sure no one is hiding behind the door.



# FOUR-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 12: SL Signals for the VIP to Enter the Room

Once the advance and SL confirm the next room is clear, the SL exits the room and provides rear security on the initial entry door while using a hand/arm signal to direct the rest of the detail into the room. The OIC leads the way into the room while the RR provides additional body coverage for the VIP from the rear. The advance can reposition in the room as needed in order to best guide the VIP into the room and provide additional security.



# FOUR-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

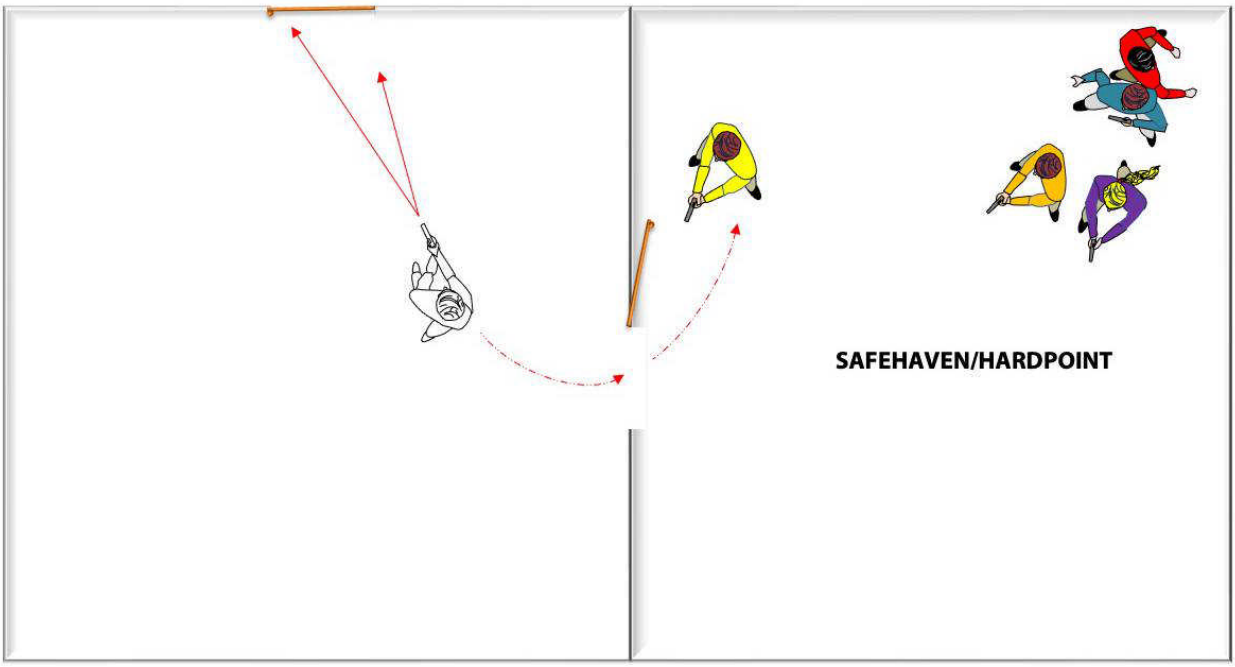
## STEP 13: VIP and Detail Enter the Safehaven

As the VIP comes into the room, the OIC and RR provide body coverage, generally to the front and rear. The SL maintains rear security on the entry door until the rest of the detail is safely in the next room. The advance can also act as a guide for the VIP into an initial defensive position.

# FOUR-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 14: SL Follows the Detail into the Room

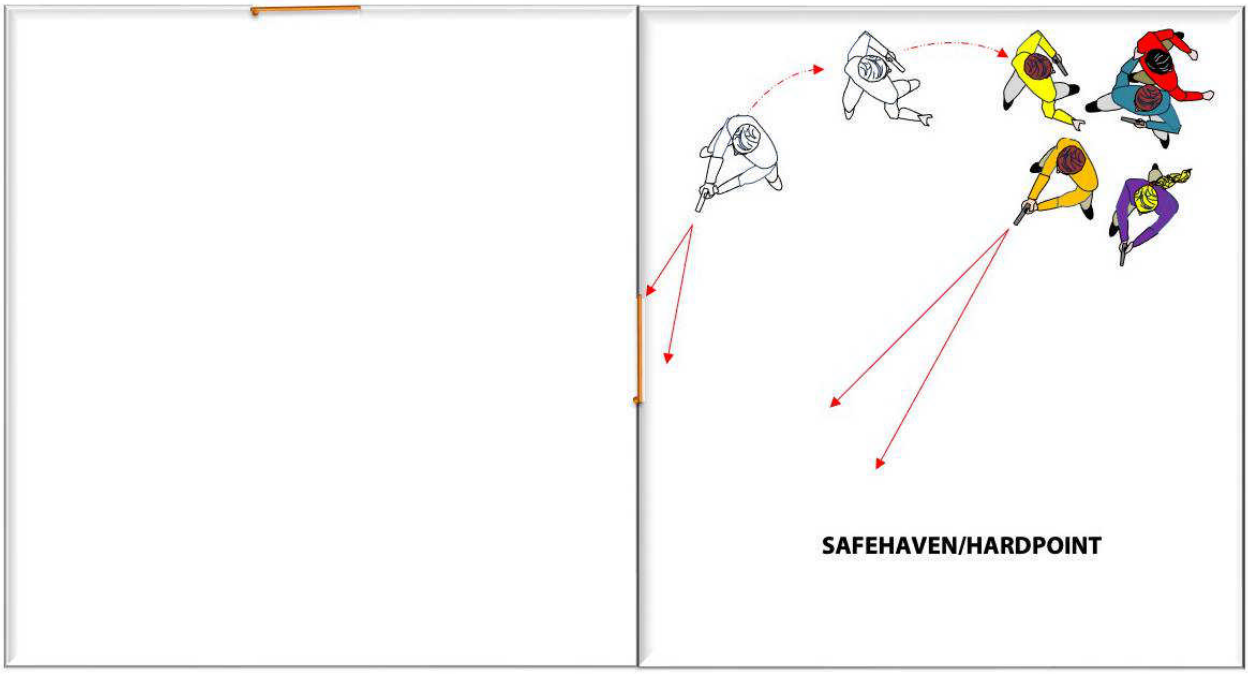
Once the detail is safely in the next room the SL will give up rear security and move quickly into the room with the rest of the detail, closing the door and locking it if possible. Meanwhile the detail will begin their priorities of work in the safehaven. The OIC will conduct his/her initial survey of the VIP, checking for injuries. The OIC will also provide water and psychological comfort/encouragement to the VIP as needed in order to keep the VIP as calm as possible.



# FOUR-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 15: Continue Priorities of Work and Contact Support

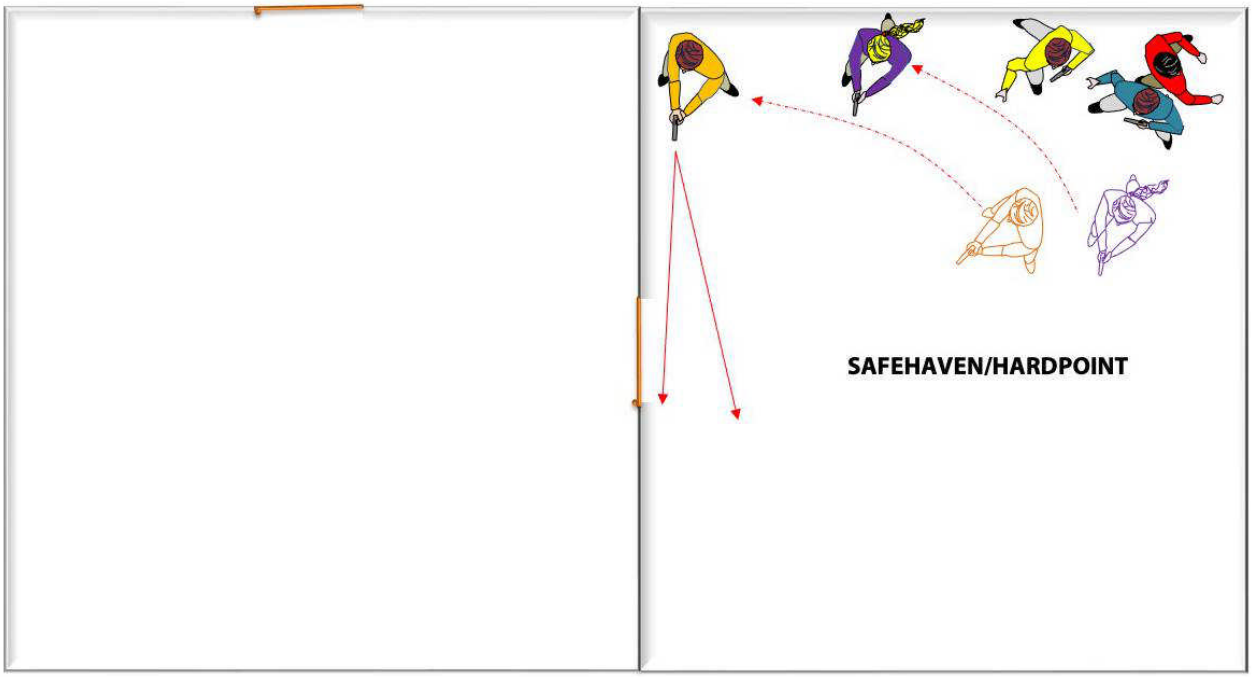
While conducting priorities of work in the safehaven, the OIC may need help with the VIP. For example, if the VIP is injured, the OIC might need an additional detail member to assist with emergency medical treatment while the remaining detail members provide cover. The detail should also establish communications with supporting elements that might be able to come and help evacuate the VIP.



# FOUR-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 16: Assume Hasty Defensive Positions

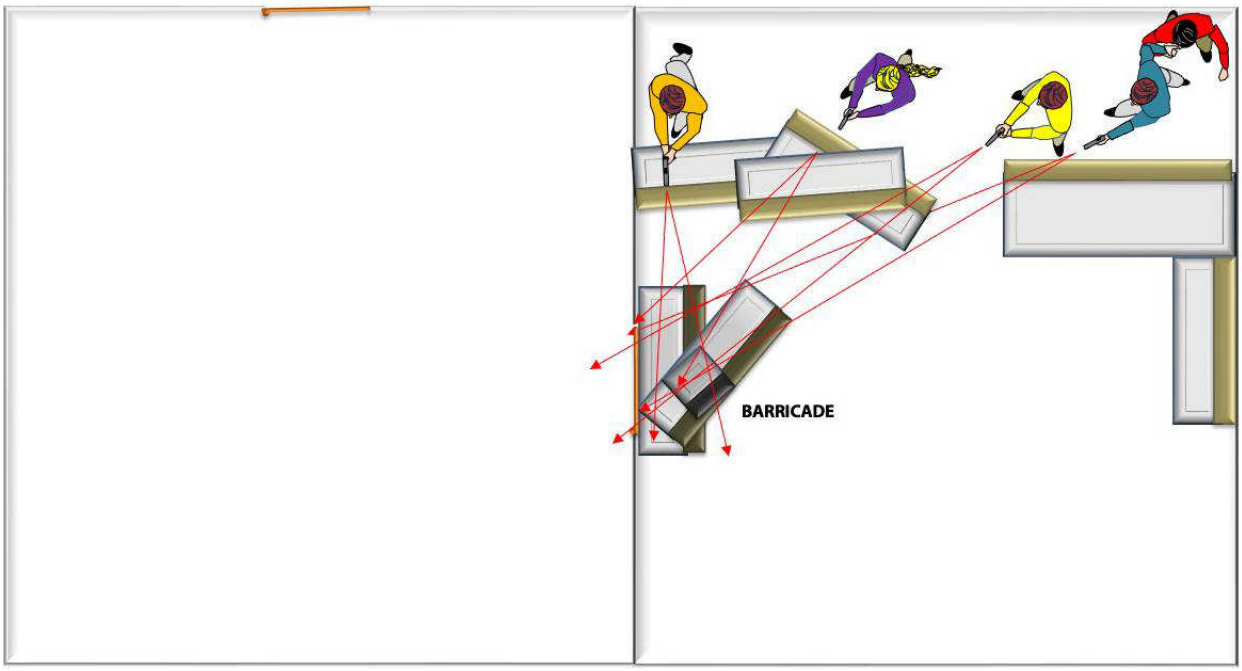
Based on the situation and the layout of furniture in the room, the detail will assume the best possible hasty defensive positions in case a threat tries to break into the room immediately. From these hasty defensive positions the detail members will begin looking around the room to decide how best to improve the defenses into a more deliberate defensive position. The OIC will continue to focus on the VIP and provide care and assistance as needed.



# FOUR-PERSON: IMMEDIATE TO DELAYED WITH BARRICADE

## STEP 17: Establish Deliberate Defense and Barricades

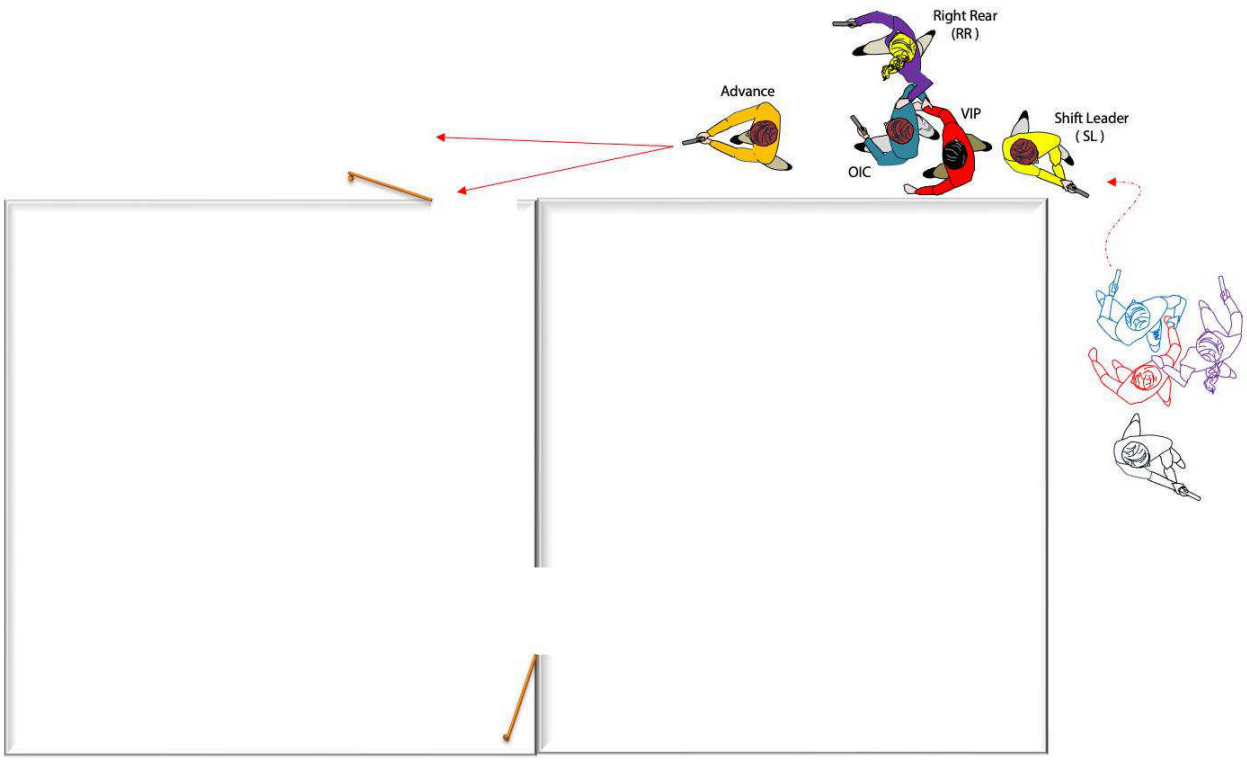
After establishing hasty defensive positions, the detail should begin to improve the defense while continuing to maintain security and assist the VIP as needed. Detail members can move furniture in the room to barricade doors and windows. The detail can also position furniture to provide cover and/or concealed firing positions within the room.



# FOUR-PERSON: CORNER-FED ROOM

## STEP 1: Advance Moves Towards Entry Door

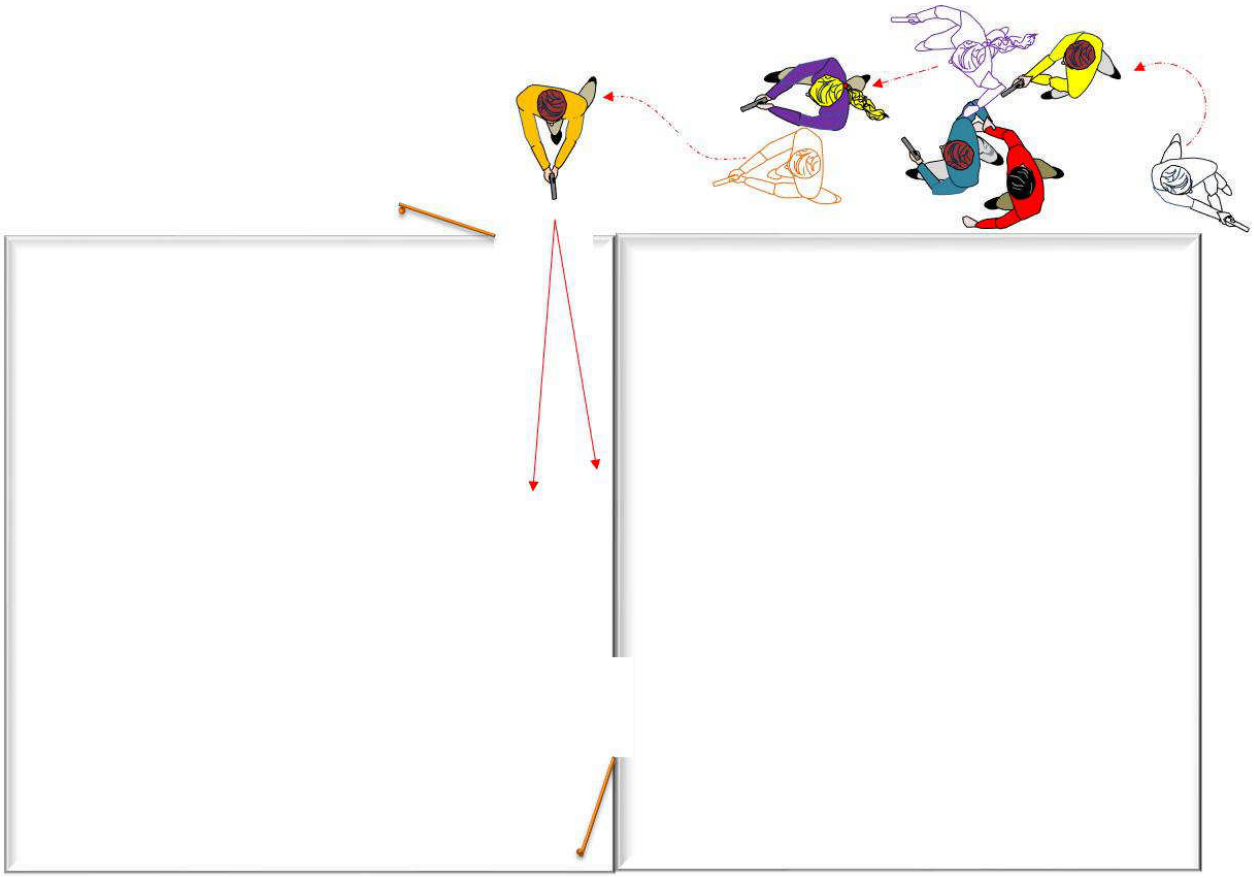
The procedures for entering a corner-fed room with a VIP are similar to the procedures for entering a center-fed room. However, the detail might have to make a few adjustments inside the room to minimize the VIP's exposure. As before, the scenario begins with the primary threat to the rear. This means the detail will execute an immediate entry to get the VIP inside the room as quickly as possible. First, the advance will move forward away from the rest of the detail to prepare to lead the way into the first room.



# FOUR-PERSON: CORNER-FED ROOM

## STEP 2: Advance Swings Out to Clear the Doorway

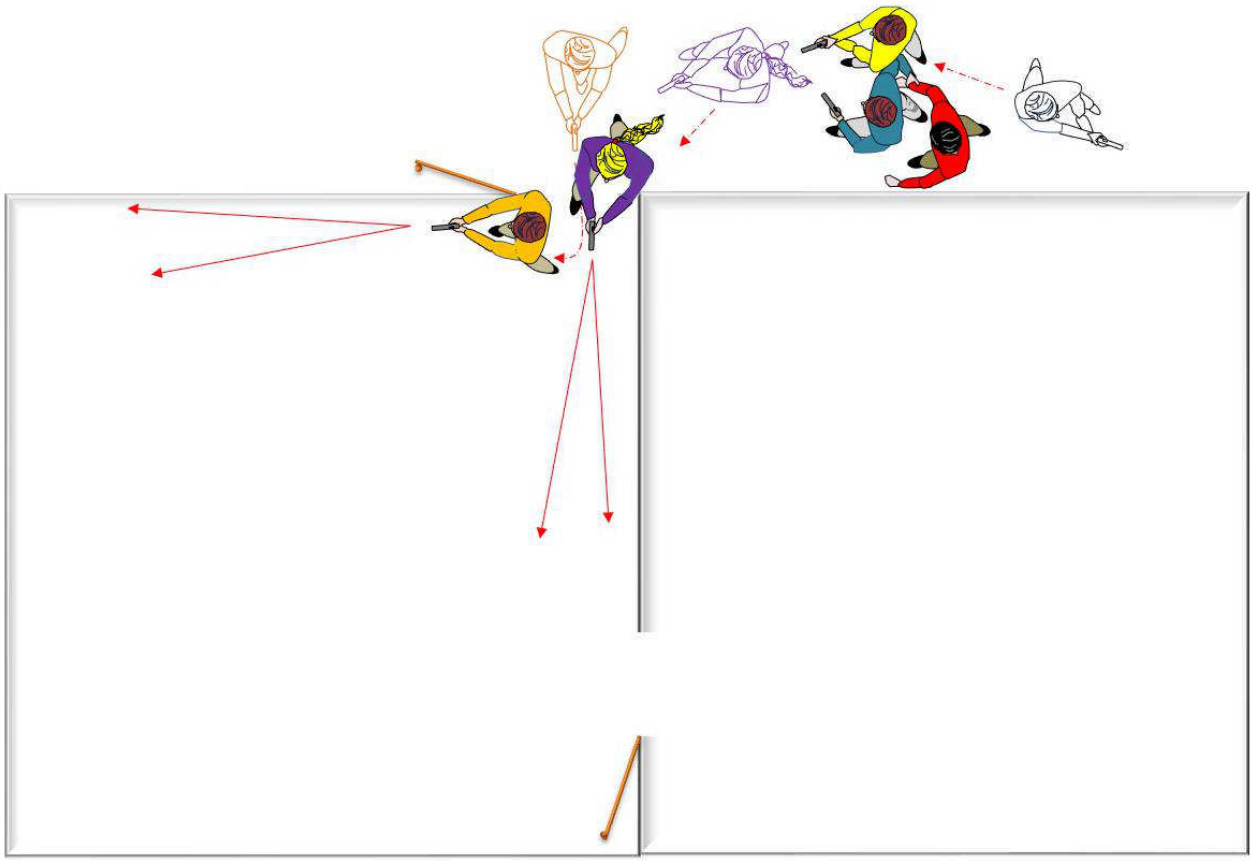
Prior to entering the room, the advance will swing out in an arc to clear the doorway and begin clearing the interior of the room from the outside. In this example, the advance and RR decide to lead the way into the room which means the RR breaks away from the VIP and moves forward to clear with the advance. The SL remains in the rear providing rear security.



# FOUR-PERSON: CORNER-FED ROOM

## STEP 3: Advance and RR Enter the Room

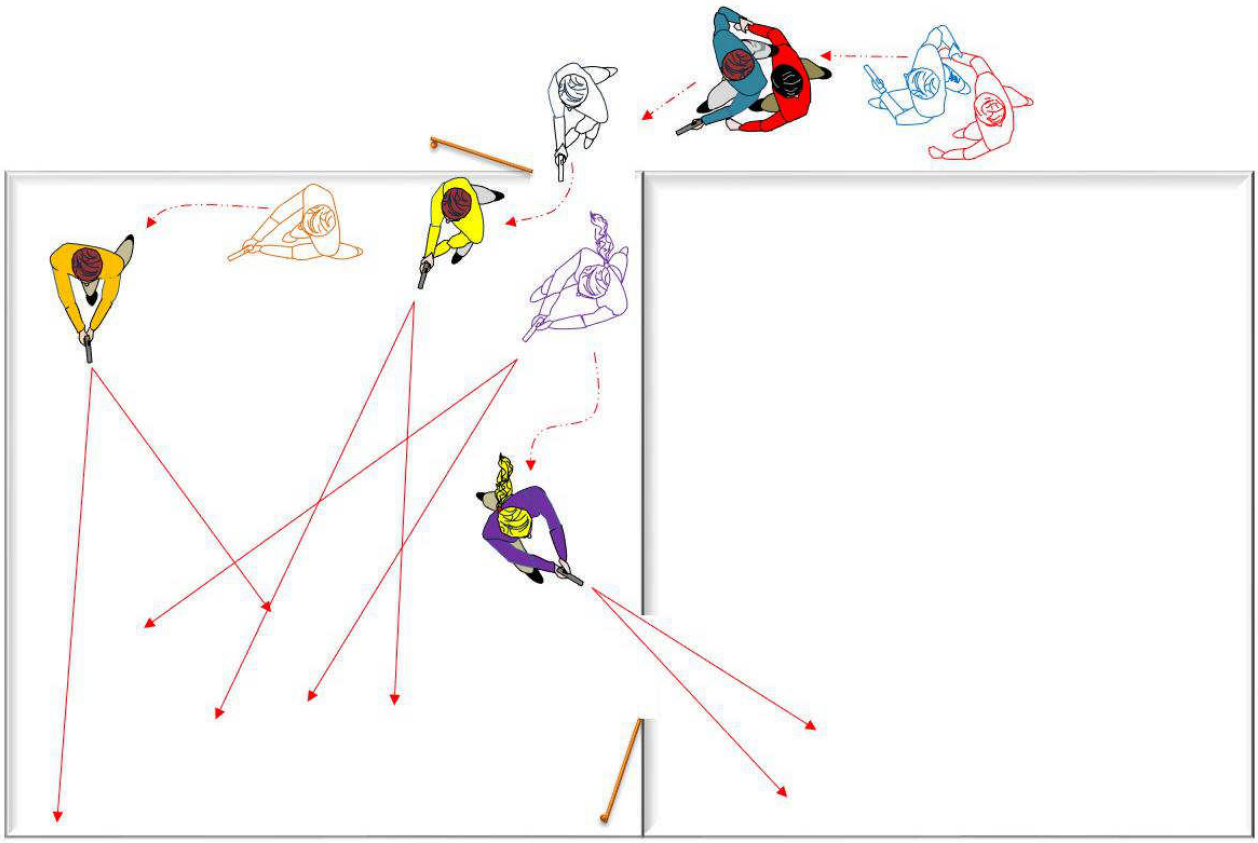
Given that the area to the front is already visually clear, the advance will first turn towards the unknown corner. The RR will follow directly behind and move in the opposite direction, clearing to the front and then scanning inward towards the center of the room.



# FOUR-PERSON: CORNER-FED ROOM

## STEP 4: Detail Dominates the Room

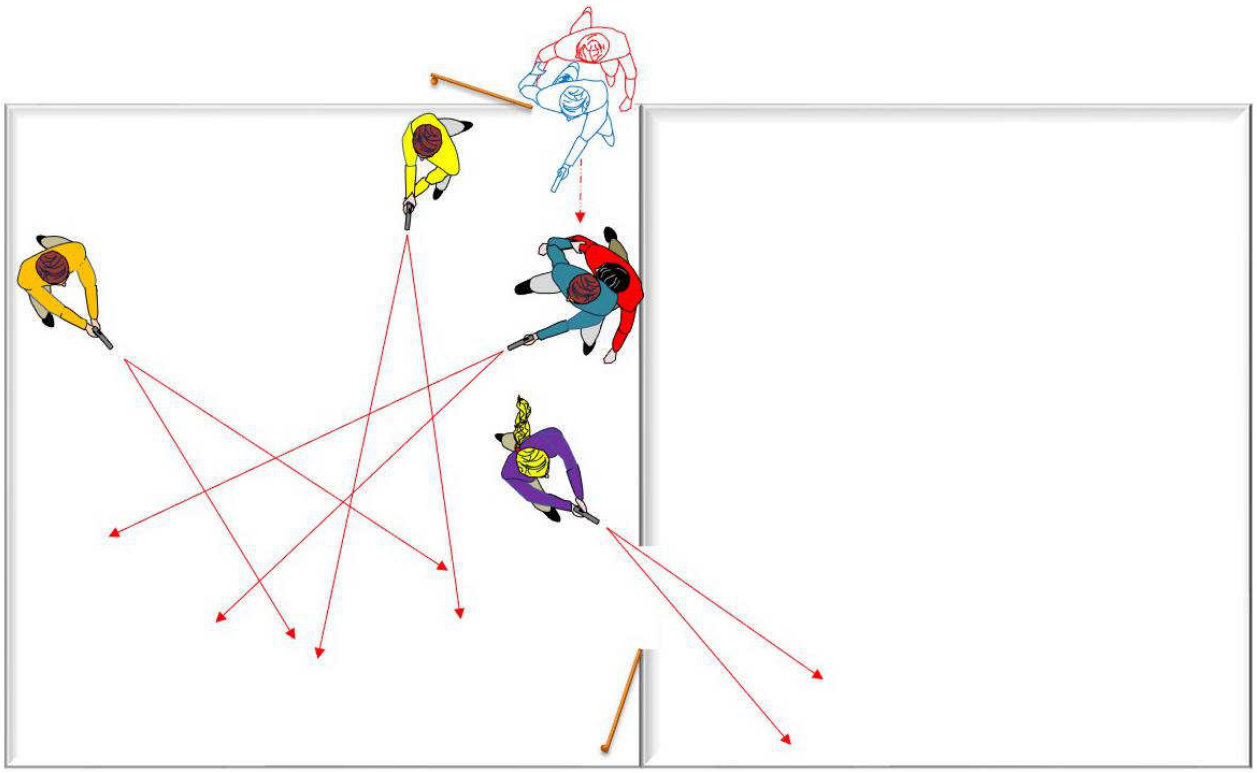
In this example, the SL decides to give up rear security and help the advance and RR quickly dominate the room. The RR identifies an open door to the left and steps outward to provide cover for the detail. With a four-person detail it is possible for the lead three detail members to quickly dominate a room while the OIC and VIP follow behind. The first two detail members into the room clear the corners and the third detail member clears the center of the room, as the SL does in this example. However, if the SL determines that there is a greater threat to the rear, the SL can remain back providing rear security and enter the room last.



# FOUR-PERSON: CORNER-FED ROOM

## STEP 5: OIC and VIP Enter the Room

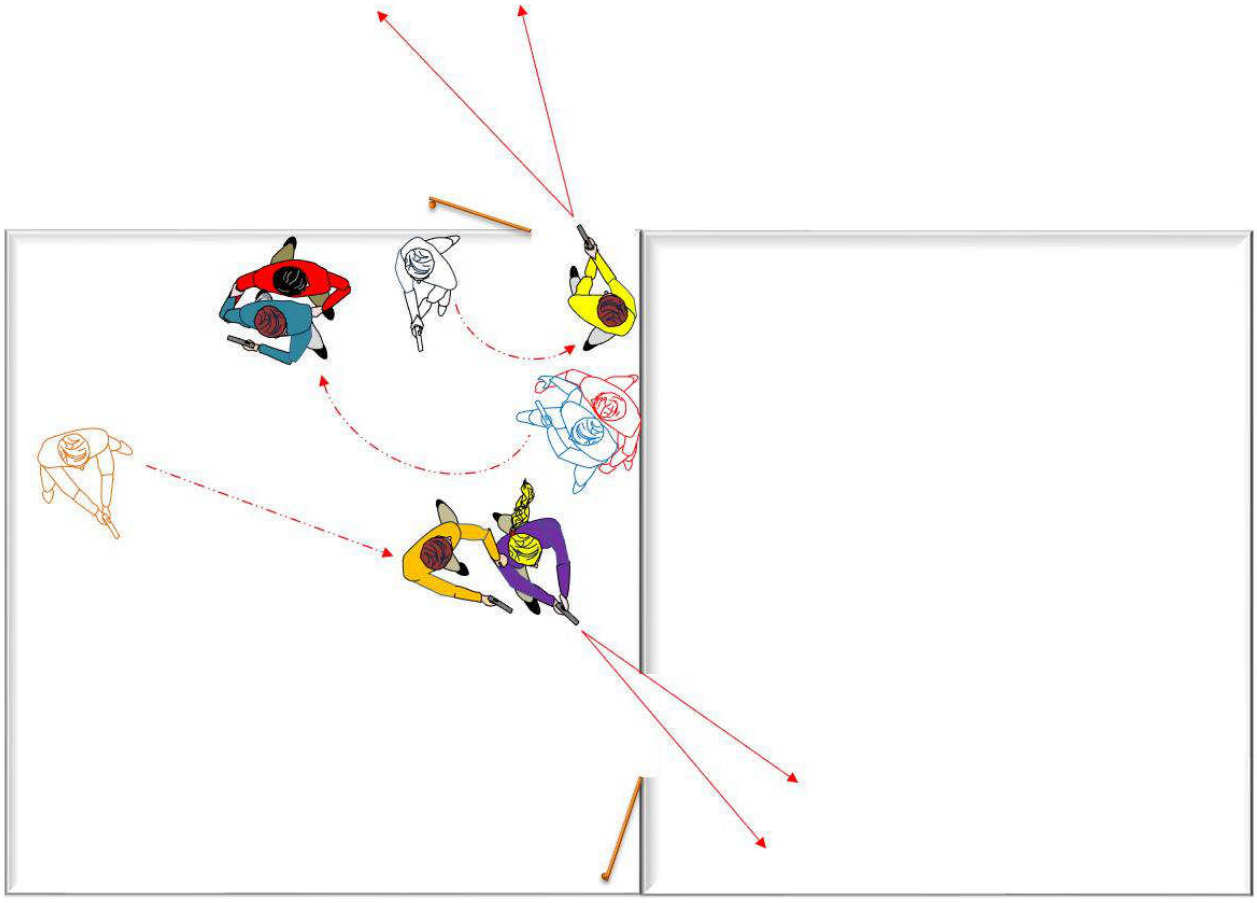
In this example, notice that as the OIC and VIP enter the room they are unable to turn to the right as they usually do because the SL is standing in the way. While this is not ideal, it can happen. In this situation it is better for the OIC and VIP to just move forward into the room than it is for them to try to push the SL out of the way or squeeze behind. The SL might have stopped because he/she identifies a threat or needs to take a shot. However, if the OIC and VIP move forward they will probably want to reposition as soon as possible.



# FOUR-PERSON: CORNER-FED ROOM

## STEP 6: OIC and VIP Reposition in the Room

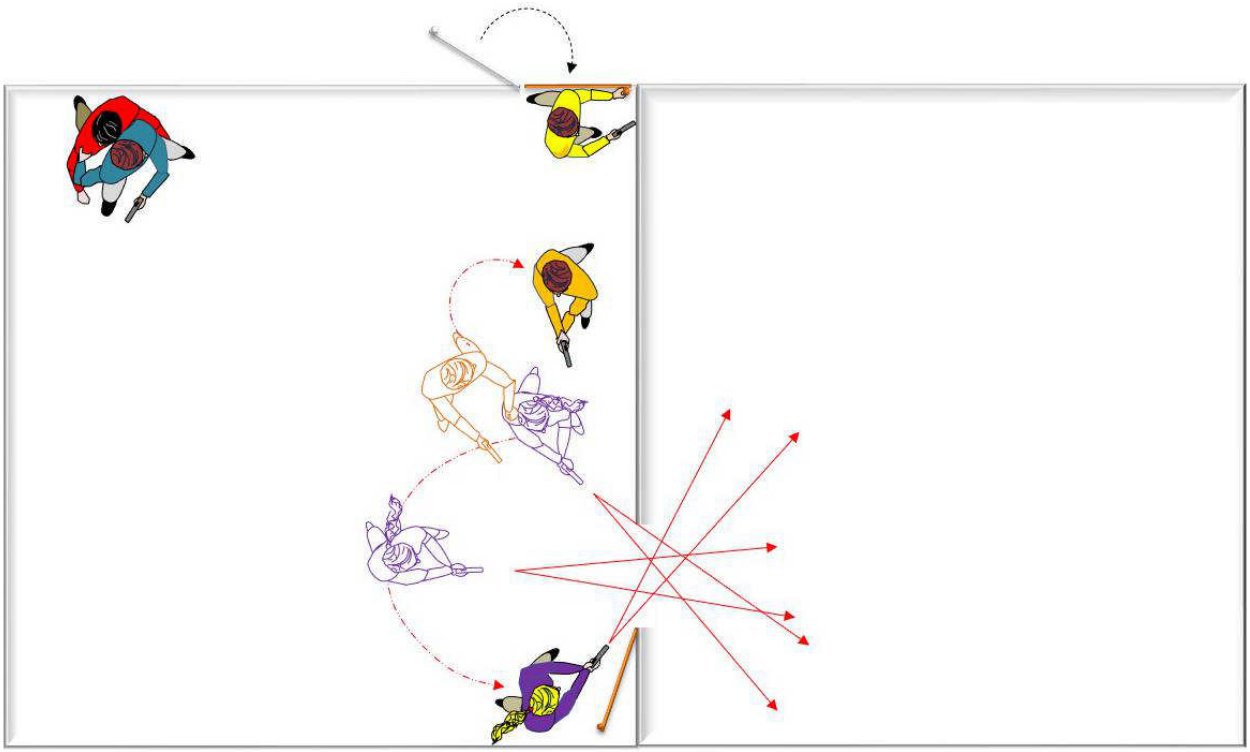
The SL identifies that the OIC and VIP are standing in the doorway, so he/she quickly moves out of the way to cover rear security and directs the OIC/VIP to move towards the corner. Meanwhile, the RR pauses facing the open door, a non-verbal signal for help clearing the next room. The advance sees the RR standing still and moves up, delivering a squeeze to initiate a two-person clearing technique.



# FOUR-PERSON: CORNER-FED ROOM

## STEP 7: RR Conducts Initial Sweep of the Door

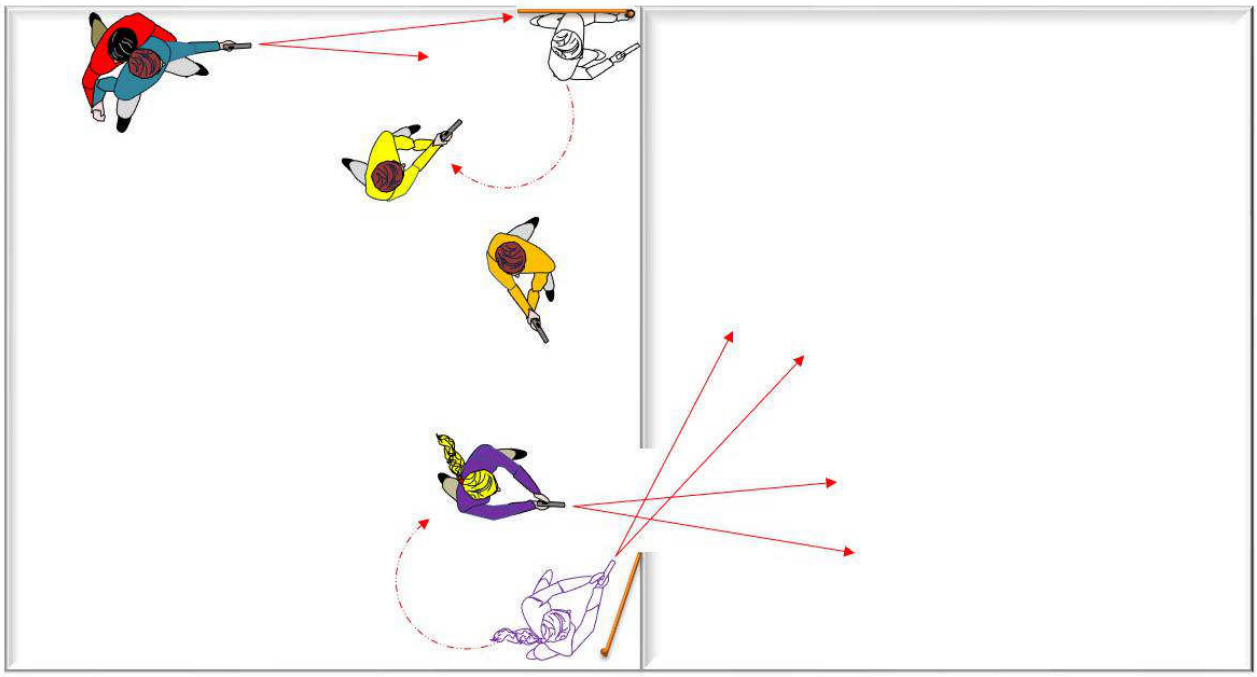
The OIC moves the VIP into the corner while the SL closes and locks the entry door if possible. After receiving the squeeze, the RR begins to execute a sweep on the open door, clearing as much of the next room from the outside as possible. This signals the advance to momentarily step back to give the RR room to conduct the sweep, while remaining prepared to move in and enter the room right behind the RR once the sweep and half-sweep are completed.



# FOUR-PERSON: CORNER-FED ROOM

## STEP 8: RR Conducts Half-Sweep and Prepares to Enter

After completing the initial sweep the RR conducts a half-sweep in the opposite direction and prepares to enter the room. The advance will begin to move towards the door, timing the movement to enter right behind the RR. The other detail members will adjust in the room as needed to cover all danger areas. From here the detail can proceed with the same steps described in previous techniques, entering the next room, moving the VIP inside the safehaven, establishing defensive positions, and barricading the door as needed.



# DANGER AREAS
# Hallway Movement

Hallways are danger areas, particularly when a tactical element is moving with a VIP. A single burst of fire from a threat hiding behind the next corner can neutralize your entire team, since the hallway forces you to bunch together in a column or line. Until you find and enter a room, you have little protection in the hallway and there are rarely furniture or obstacles in a hallway that can provide adequate cover and concealment. For all these reasons it is critical for the detail to get the VIP out of the hallway and into a room as quickly as possible.

If possible, the detail might be able to avoid hallways altogether, by moving from room to room. However, if the detail has no choice but to enter a hallway, there are certain movement and clearing techniques that will maximize security for the VIP. First, body coverage is particularly important in hallways since the bodies and armor of the protective detail might be all the protection the VIP has while moving. Speed is also important since the less time the detail spends in the hallway the better. Finally, as with room clearing techniques, it is important to orient detail members in the direction of greatest threat, either to the front or rear as needed. As in room clearing, the direction of greatest threat can change rapidly.

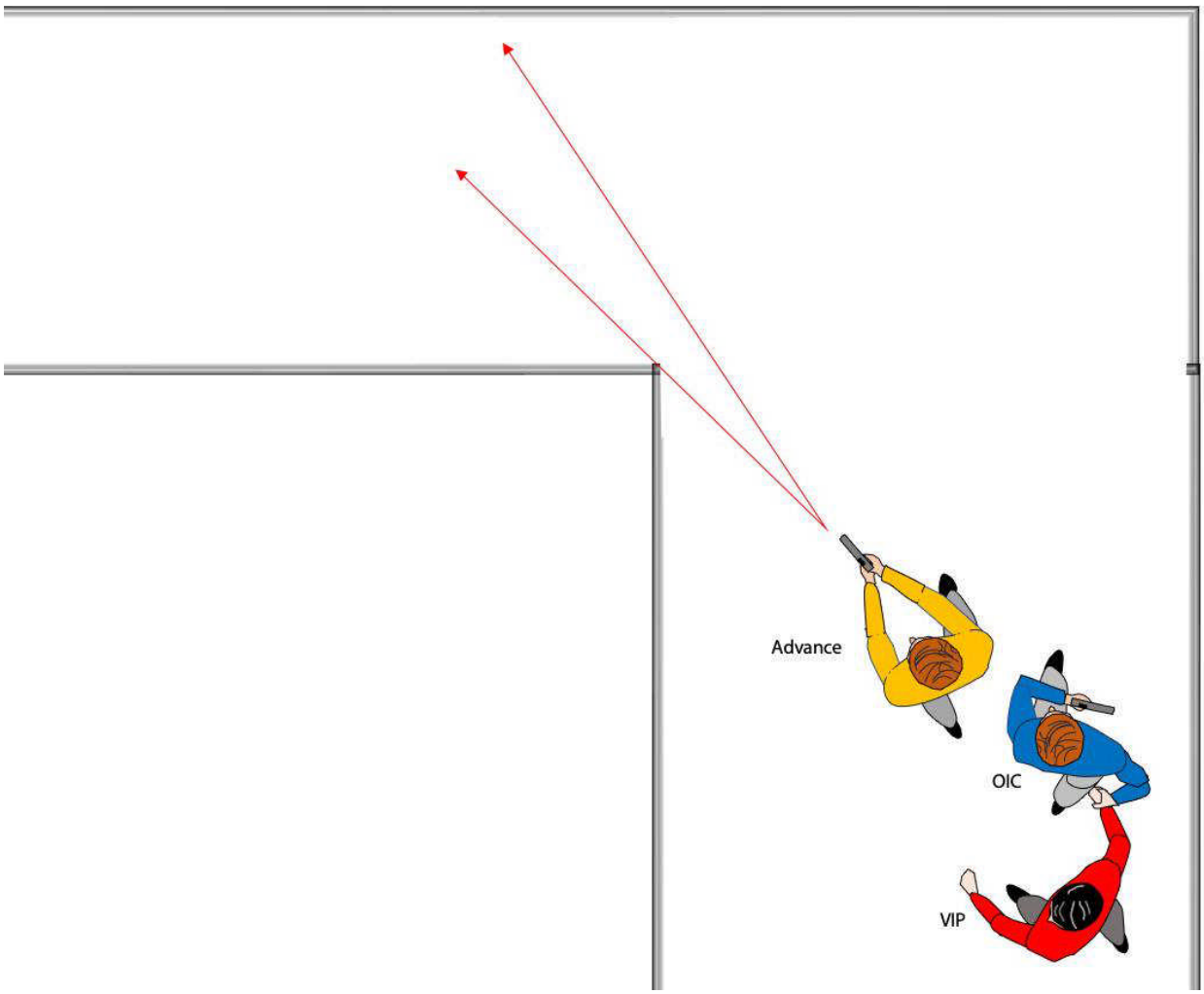
This section discusses immediate and delayed hallway and intersection clearing techniques for two-person, three-person and four-person details. A detail can use any combination of delayed or immediate clearing techniques described in detail in other Special Tactics manuals and this chapter does not cover all possibilities. Rather, the objective is to give examples of combinations that might prove effective in common situations.

Two factors that influence which clearing techniques a detail chooses are direction of the threat and width of the hallway. If the primary threat is to the rear, an immediate clearing option might be best. If there is a greater potential threat to the front, a delayed clearing technique might be preferable. In a very narrow hallway there might not be room for a two-person clearing technique making it necessary to send only one detail member forward to clear an intersection. A wider hallway offers more space for the detail to spread out and more options for where to position the VIP to best avoid hostile fire.

# TWO-PERSON: L-SHAPE HALLWAY IMMEDIATE CLEAR

## STEP 1: Advance Prepares to Clear the Corner

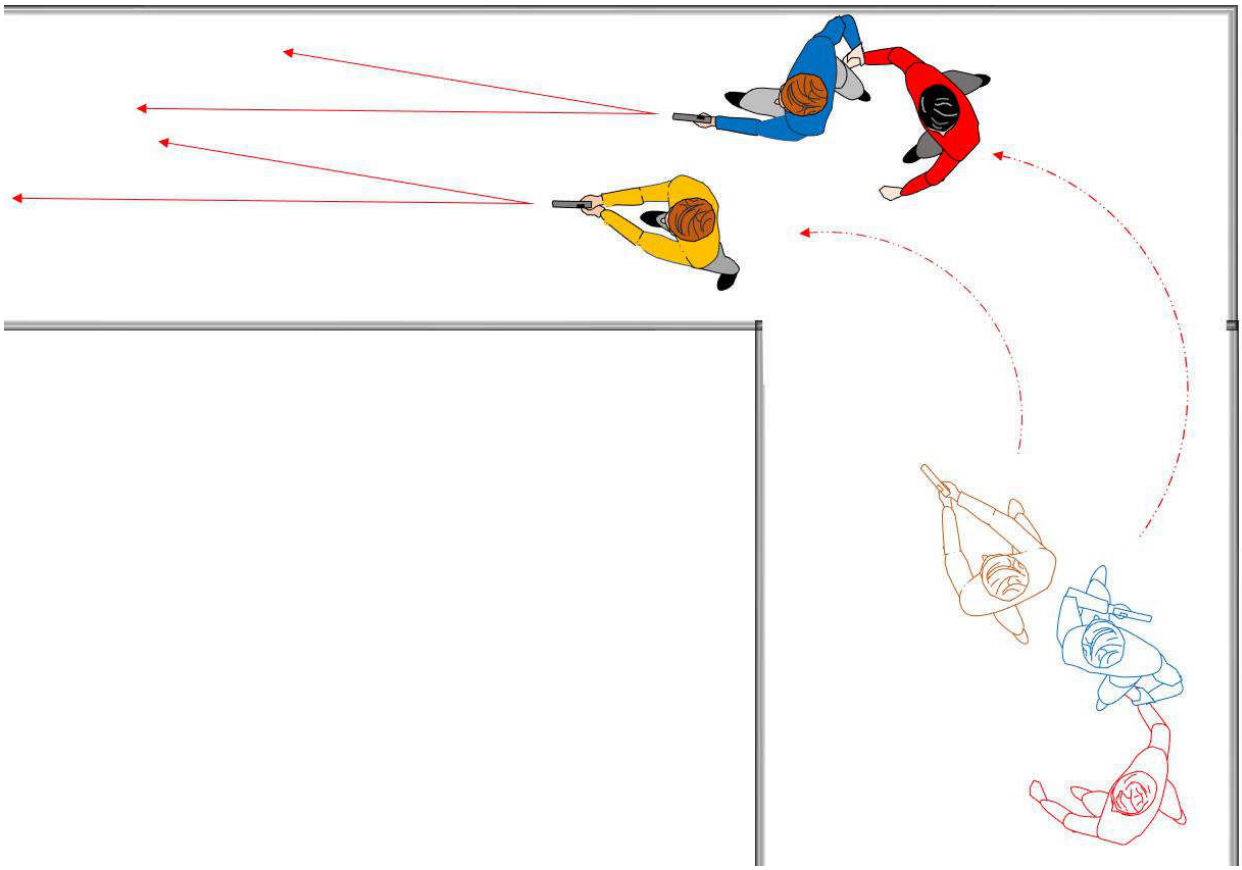
In this scenario the detail determines that the primary threat is to the rear and will therefore move around the corner as quickly as possible using an immediate clearing technique. First, the advance will prepare to clear the corner, approaching at an angle that gives partial visibility around the corner. The OIC will stay close to the advance but make sure to keep the VIP in a position where he/she is as protected as possible by the surrounding walls and body coverage.



# TWO-PERSON: L-SHAPE HALLWAY IMMEDIATE CLEAR

## STEP 2: Advance and OIC Clear the Corner

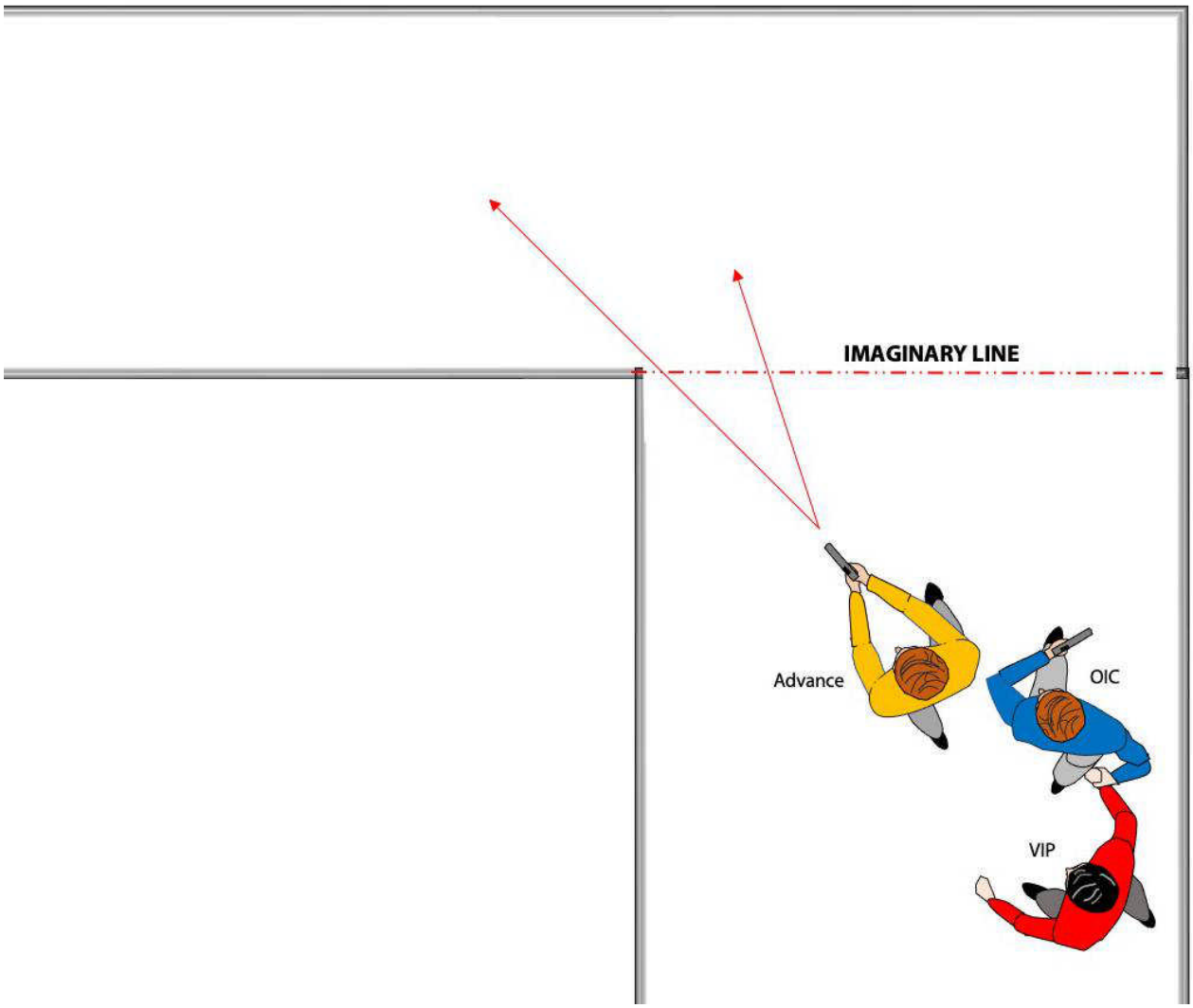
For an immediate clear, the advance and OIC will come around the corner simultaneously as quickly as possible to create distance from threats to the rear. In the example below, the advance comes around the corner and assumes a position on the left side of the hallway while the OIC swings out to assume a position on the right side of the hallway. This is just one option. The OIC can position wherever he/she determines is safest for the VIP which can include moving directly behind the advance if needed. If the OIC moves behind the advance that will place most of the clearing responsibility on the advance's shoulders. If the OIC swings out as in the example below, the advance and OIC can establish cross coverage moving down the hall.



# TWO-PERSON: L-SHAPE HALLWAY DELAYED CLEAR

## STEP 1: Advance Prepares to Clear the Corner

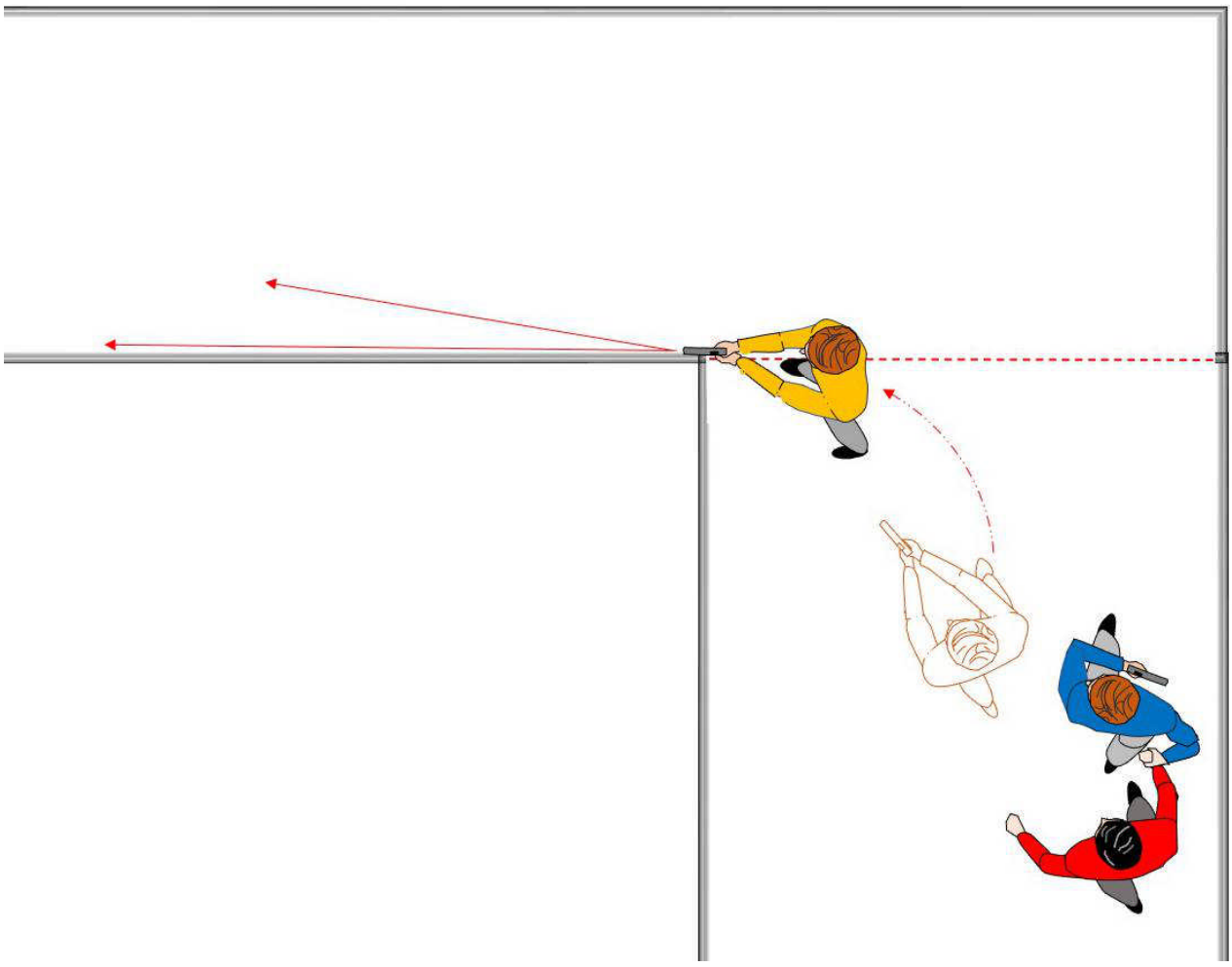
If the detail determines that the most serious threat is to the front, they might want to conduct a delayed entry by having one detail member clear ahead while keeping the VIP back at a safe distance, delaying his/her movement around the corner. The advance should move towards the corner at an angle, ensuring not to reveal the detail's position by making noise or letting his/her shadow extend past the imaginary line shown below. The OIC holds position and maintains positive control of the VIP using any combination of control techniques depending on the situation.



# TWO-PERSON: L-SHAPE HALLWAY DELAYED CLEAR

## STEP 2: Advance Clears the Corner Alone

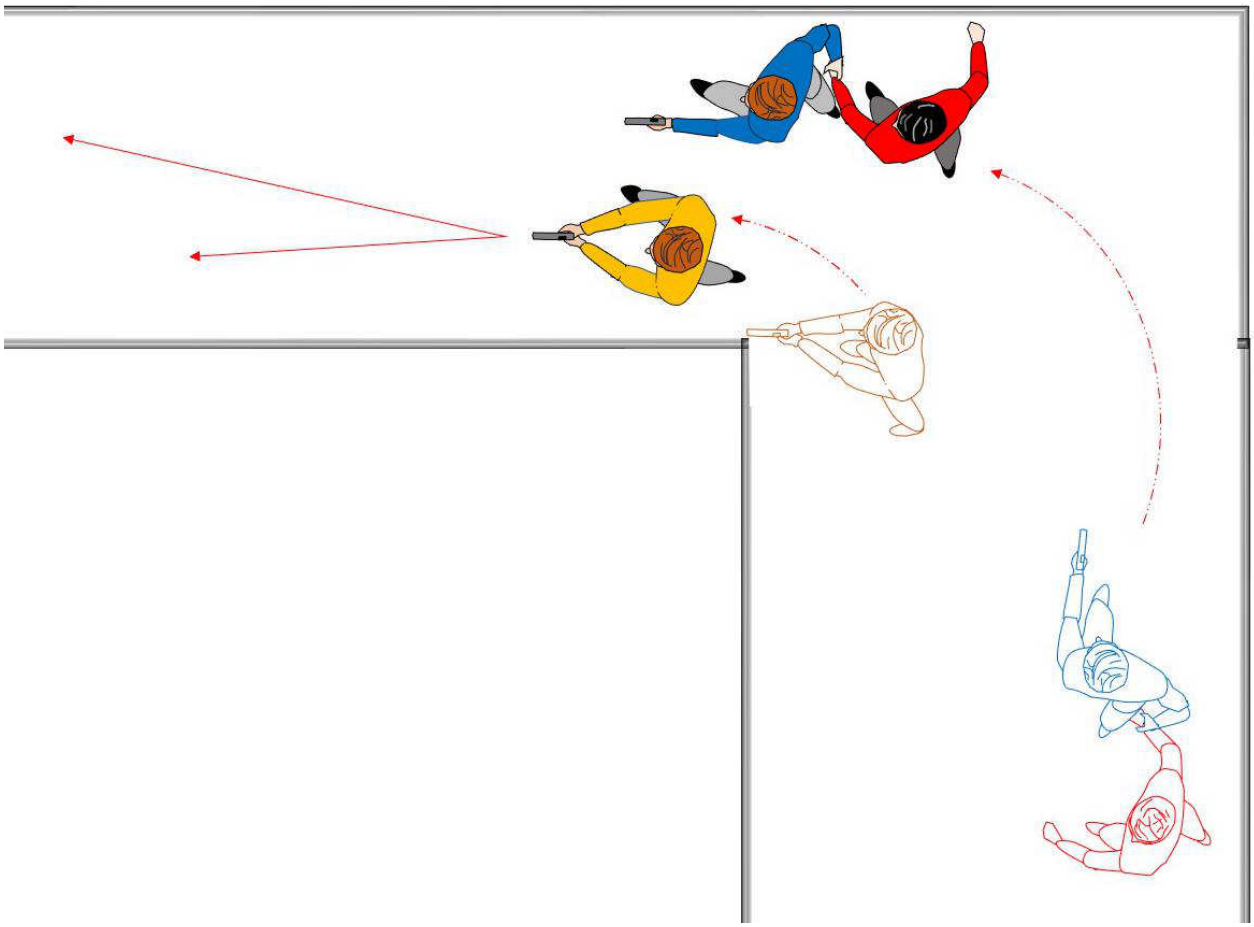
The advance quickly comes around the corner, exposing as little of his/her body as possible by remaining aware of the imaginary line extending across the threshold of the intersection. The OIC remains back and keeps the VIP safe and away from any hostile fire.



# TWO-PERSON: L-SHAPE HALLWAY DELAYED CLEAR

## STEP 3: Detail Moves Around the Corner

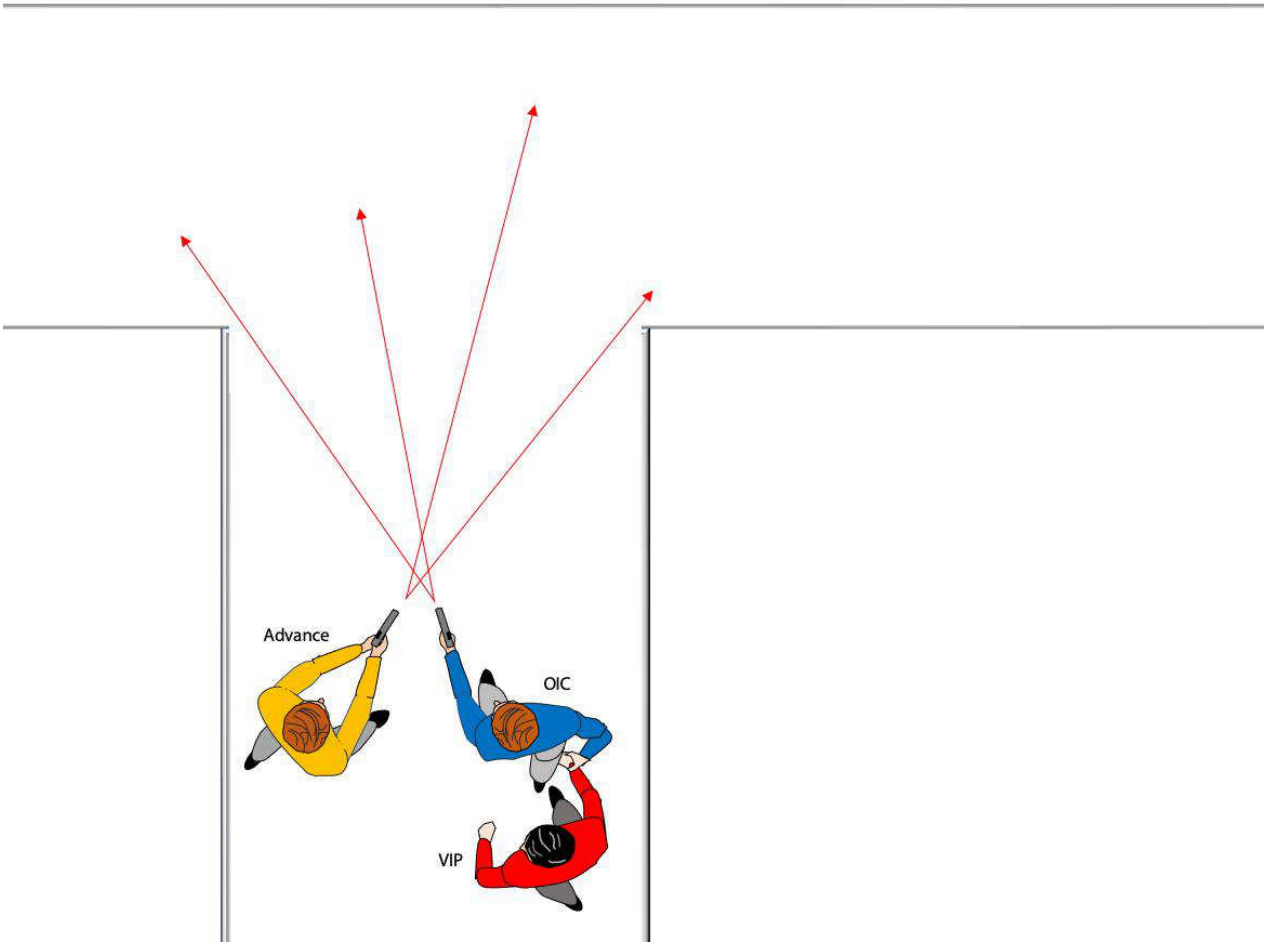
Once the advance identifies that the hallway is clear, he/she will come around the corner and start moving down the hall. The OIC will see this and follow the advance around the corner, either swinging out to move down the right side of the hall (as shown in the example) or remaining behind the advance to better shield the VIP. The OIC can use whichever control technique he/she deems most appropriate for the situation.



# TWO-PERSON: T-SHAPE HALLWAY START POSITION

## OIC and Advance Establish Cross-Coverage

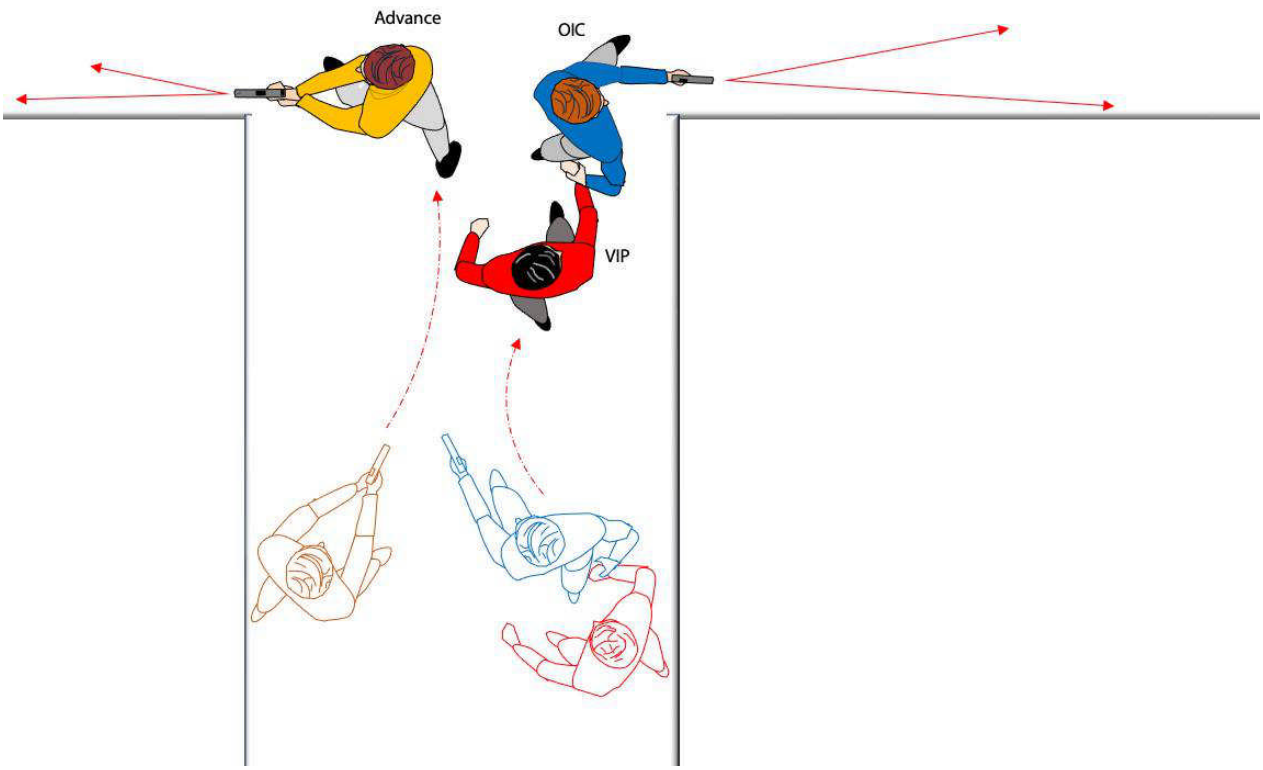
When clearing a T-shape intersection with a two-person detail, the start position generally remains the same regardless of the clearing technique the detail chooses to use. The advance and OIC will establish cross coverage on the intersection to identify any threats in the immediate area. If the OIC chooses to stay further back, behind the advance, the advance will need to approach the intersection alone without the benefit of cross coverage.



# TWO-PERSON: T-SHAPE HALLWAY IMMEDIATE CLEAR

## Advance and OIC Clear Simultaneously

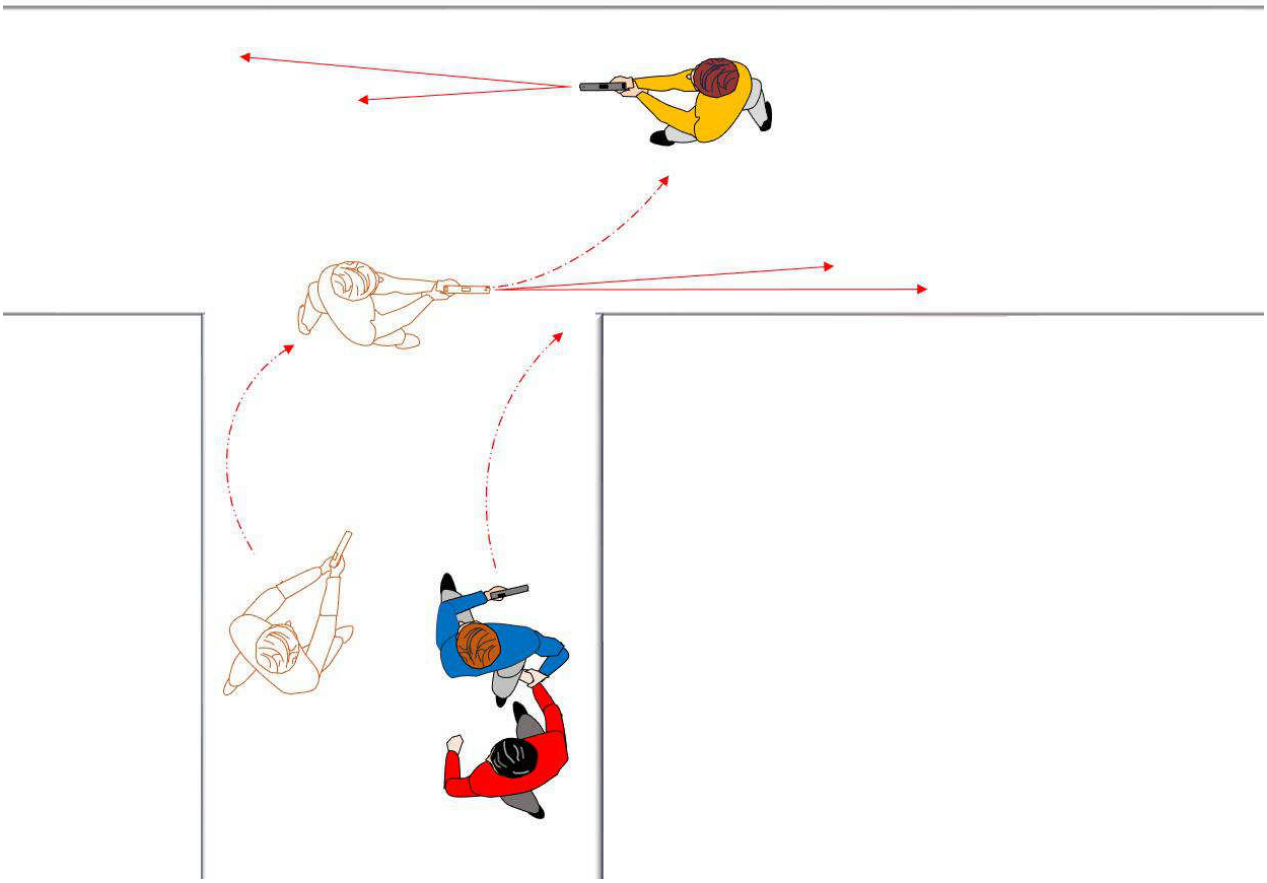
If the primary threat is to the rear and it is important to move through the intersection as quickly as possible, the detail may decide to use an immediate clear technique. To conduct an immediate clear, the advance and OIC will come around the corner simultaneously, clearing to the right and left down the hallway. The OIC will maintain control of the VIP using a one-handed pull control technique in order to continue to pull the VIP forward immediately once the intersection is clear. In the example below, the detail can move to either the left or right, with the two detail members repositioning in the hall to establish cross coverage on the move or with the OIC falling in behind the advance.



# TWO-PERSON: T-SHAPE DELAYED SINGLETON CLEAR

## Advance Conducts Singleton Reverse-180 Technique

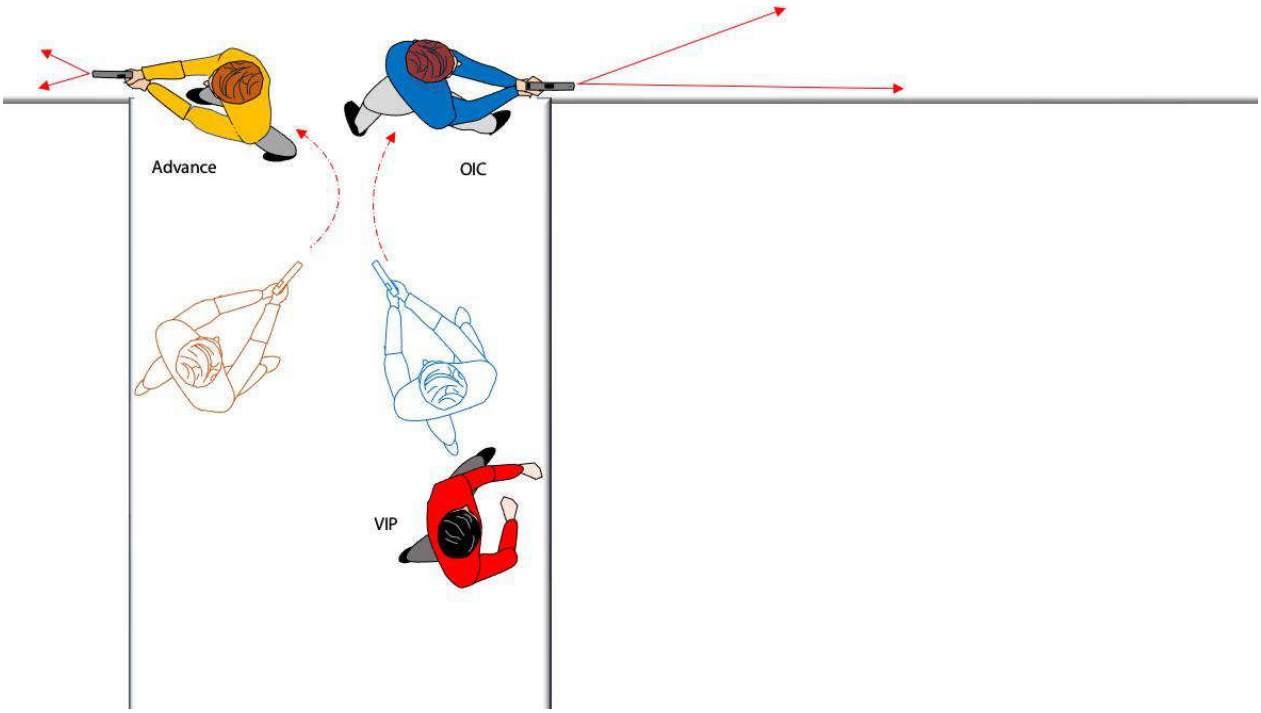
If the detail believes the most serious threat is to the front, they might want to conduct a delayed clearing technique, keeping the VIP back at a safe distance until the intersection is clear. One way to do this is for the OIC to remain back with the VIP while the advance moves forward to conduct a singleton clear of the intersection. This presents a greater risk for the advance but reduces the VIP's exposure. In the example below, the advance conducts a reverse-180 technique, clearing to the right first then quickly pivoting 180-degrees to clear in the opposite direction. This is just one clearing option available to the advance. Depending on the situation and time available, the advance can conduct a partial sweep of the intersection and/or use a quick-clear technique instead of the reverse-180. Once the intersection is clear, the OIC will lead the VIP around the corner in the desired direction of travel.



# TWO-PERSON: T-SHAPE DELAYED SIMULTANEOUS CLEAR

## STEP 1: Detail Moves Forward for Simultaneous Clear

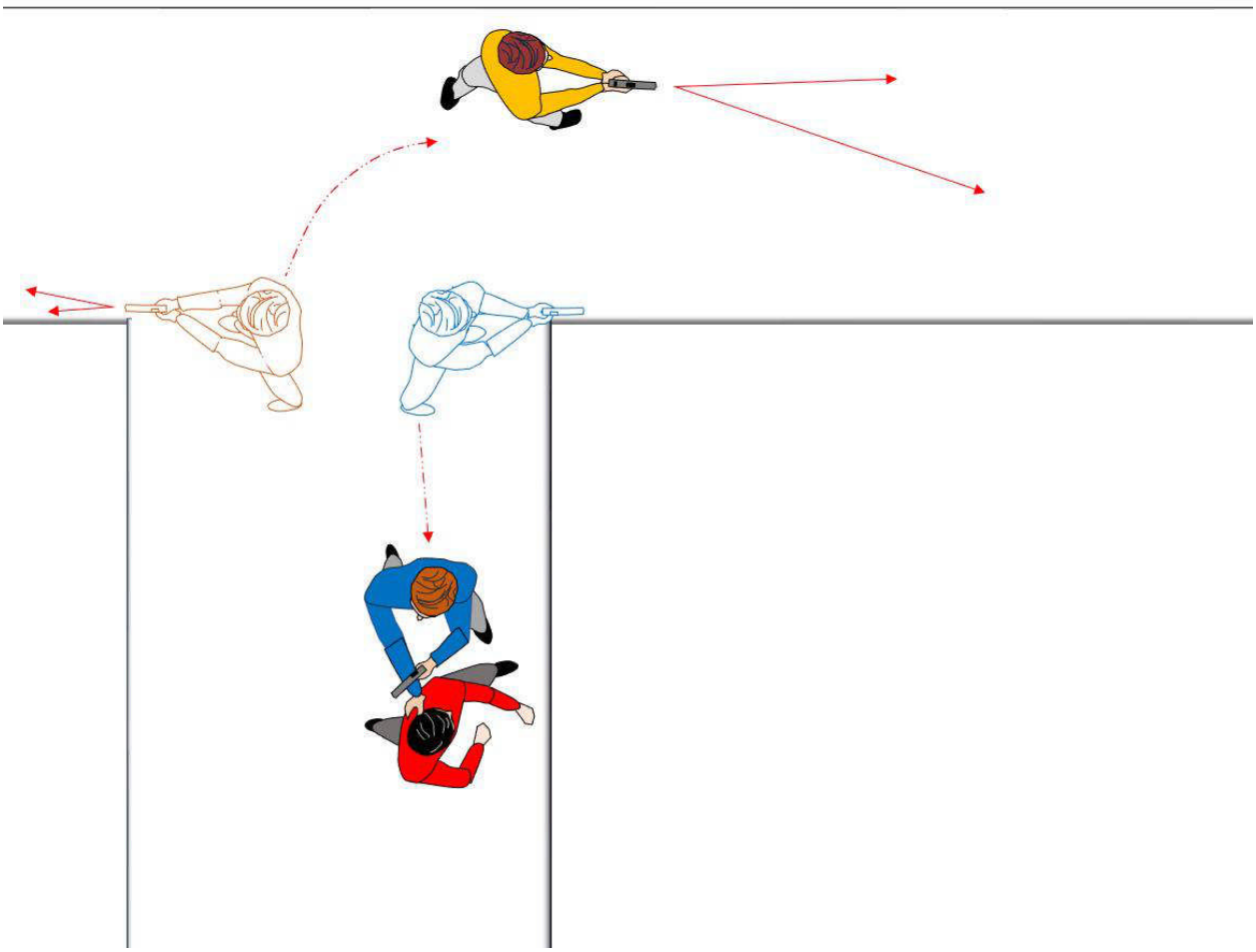
With a two-person detail, it is also possible to execute a delayed clear using a simultaneous clear technique. However, because there are only two detail members, the OIC will need to momentarily separate from the VIP, placing the VIP in a safe location out of the way of the intersection. The OIC will instruct the VIP to get down and remain in place. Then, the advance and OIC will move forward and clear both corners simultaneously.



# TWO-PERSON: T-SHAPE DELAYED SIMULTANEOUS CLEAR

## STEP 2: OIC Reestablishes Control of the VIP

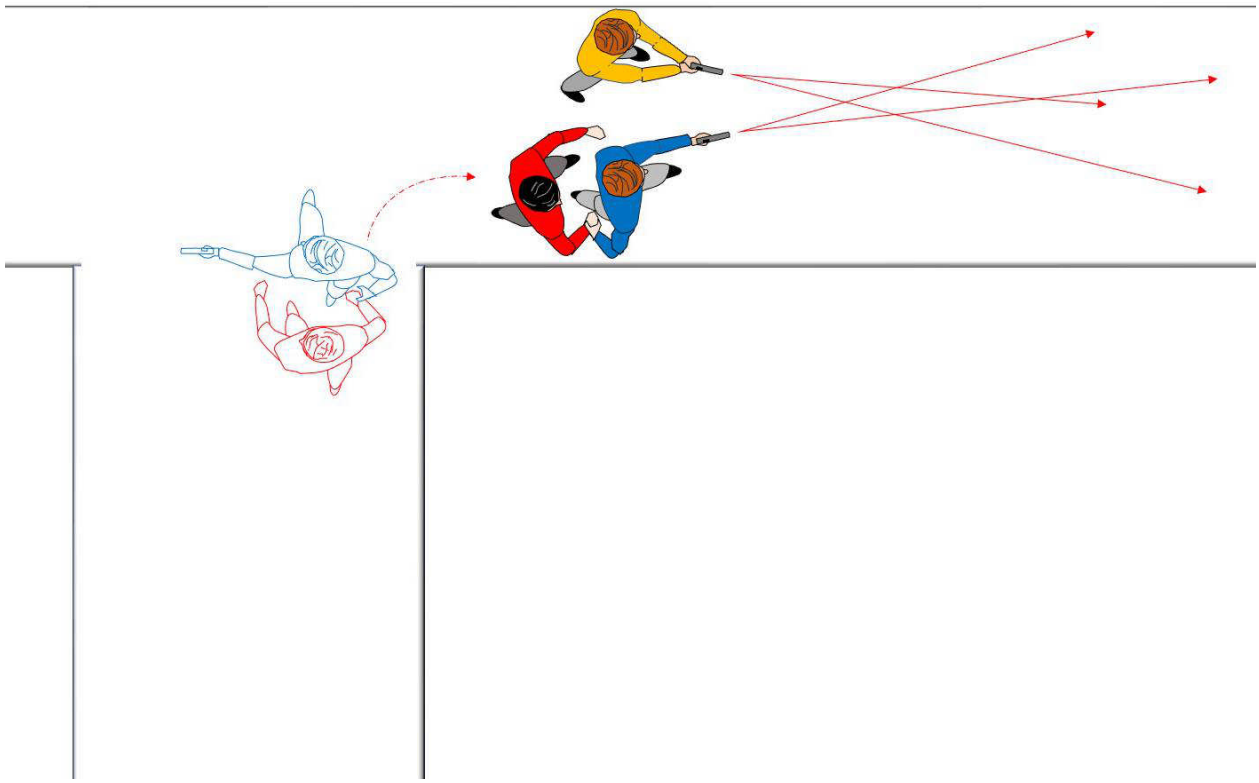
Once the intersection is clear, the advance will adjust accordingly to achieve the best coverage of the hallway in the direction of travel to prepare for the VIP. The OIC will then need to reestablish control of the VIP. The OIC can do this either by calling/signaling the VIP forward or by going back and physically picking up the VIP. If the VIP is highly stressed and/or disoriented, this second option might be a better choice to ensure positive control.



# TWO-PERSON: T-SHAPE DELAYED SIMULTANEOUS CLEAR

## STEP 3: Detail Moves Down the Hallway

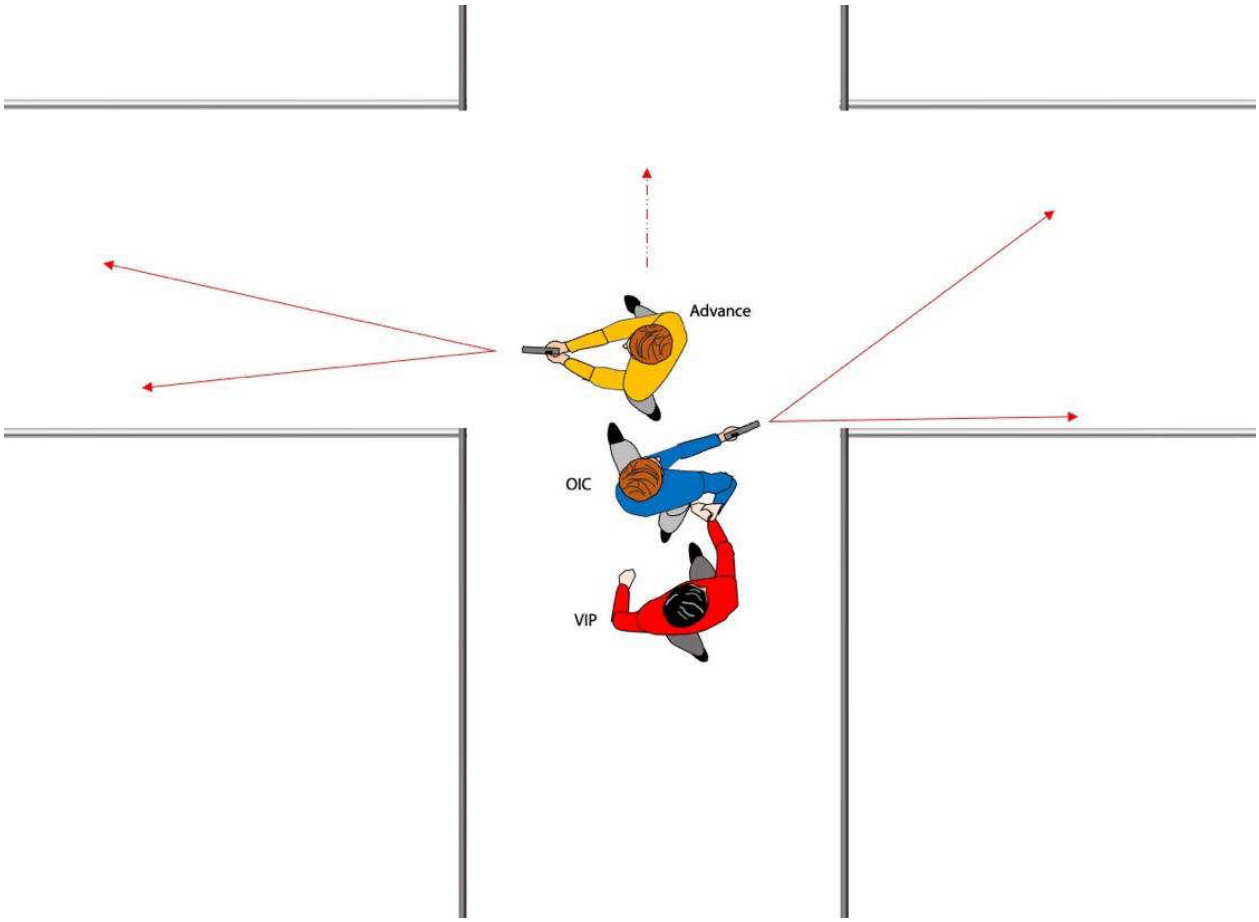
As the OIC brings the VIP around the corner, he/she should continue to maintain 360-degree awareness and scan the surrounding area for threats coming from an unexpected direction. After making the turn, the advance and OIC can continue movement down the hallway in the formation of their choosing.



# TWO-PERSON: X-SHAPE HALLWAY IMMEDIATE CLEAR

## Detail Moves Across Intersection in Formation

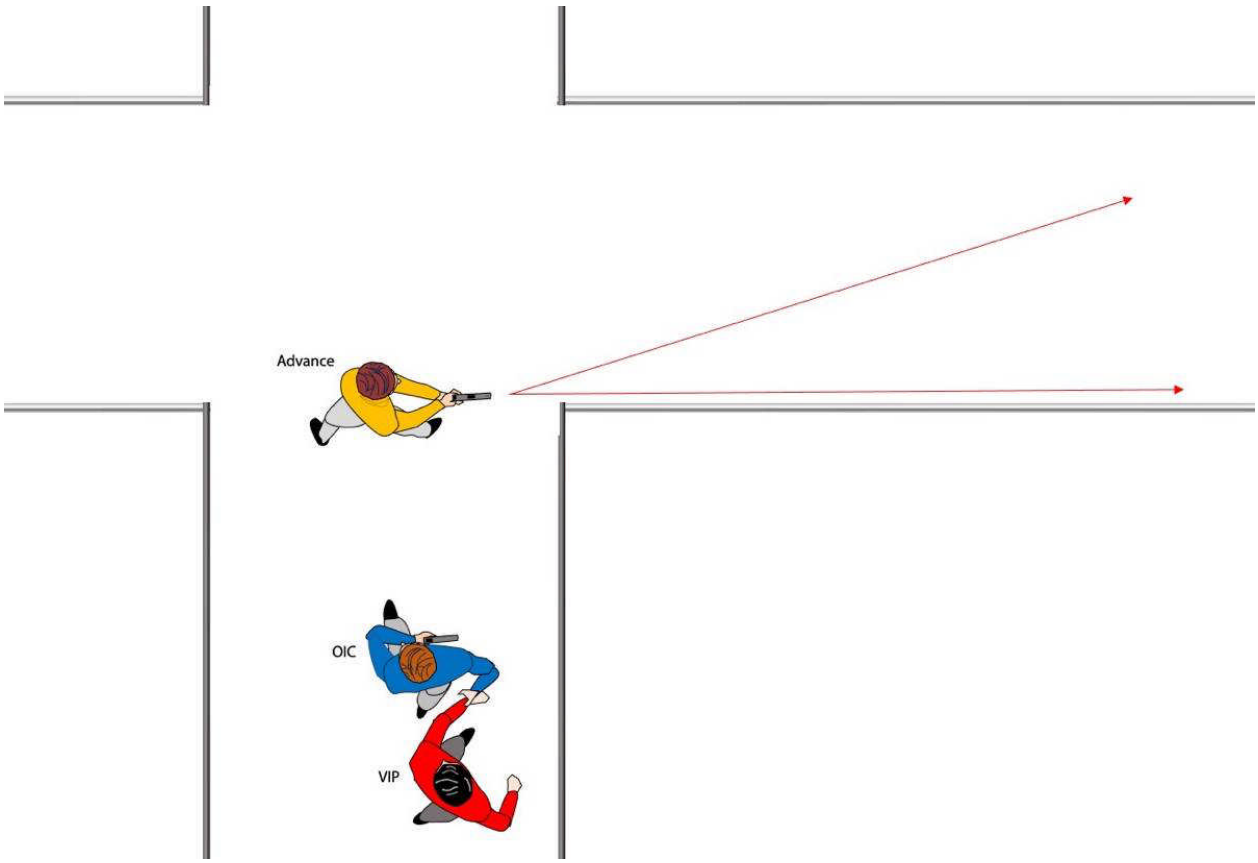
If the primary threat is to the rear, the detail might choose to clear an X-intersection using an immediate clearing technique. The same general technique can be used whether the detail turns right, left, or moves straight ahead. The advance will lead the way towards the intersection. Upon breaking the plane of the corner, the advance will pivot either to the right or left while continuing to move, the OIC will pivot in the opposite direction. At this point, the detail can continue moving forward or choose to turn right or left.



# TWO-PERSON: X-SHAPE DELAYED SINGLETON CLEAR

## STEP 1: Advance Clears to the Right

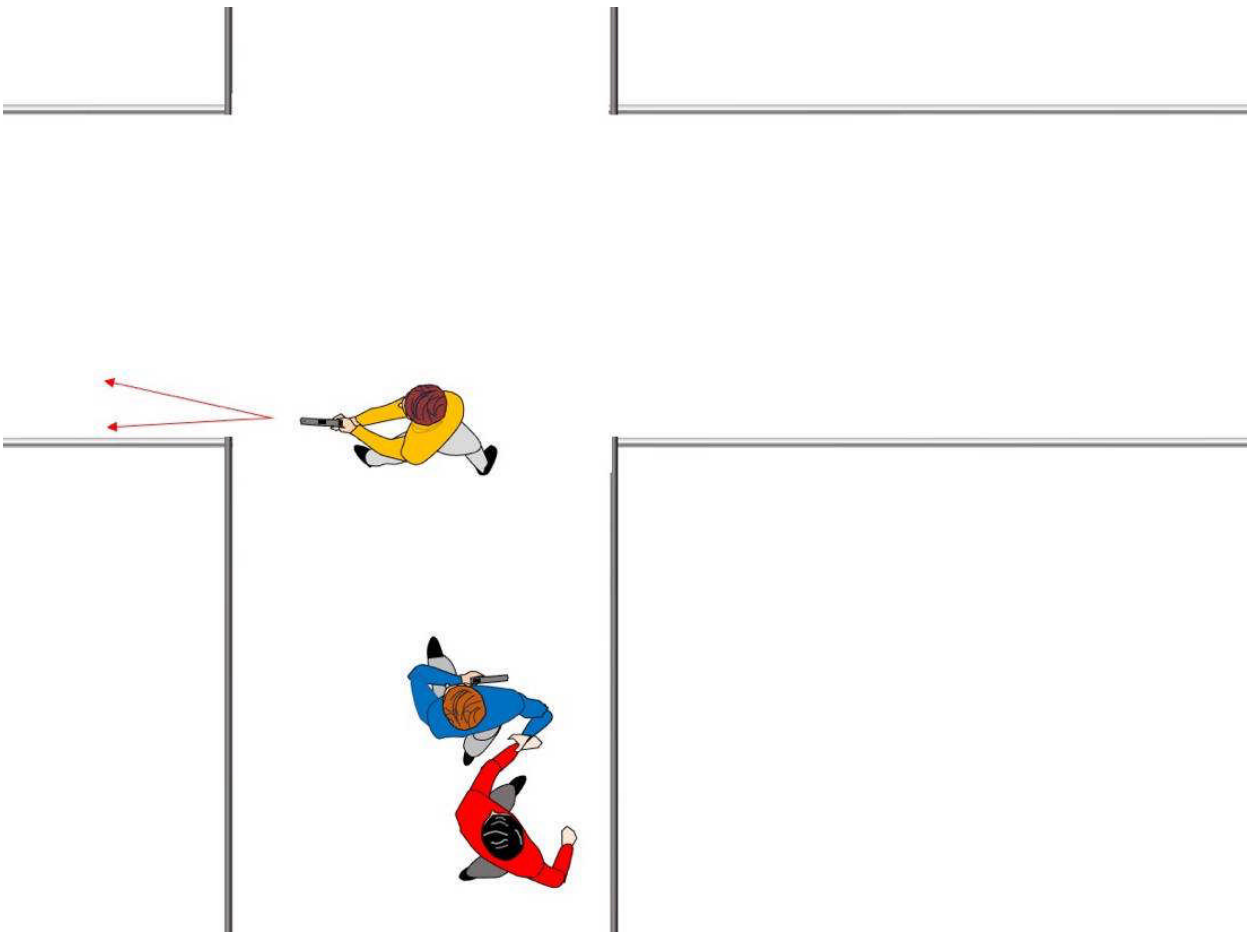
If the detail decides to use a more cautious, delayed approach, the advance can move forward and conduct a singleton clear of the intersection. In this example, the advance conducts a quick clear, exposing as little of his/her body as possible around the corner. In this example, the advance chooses to clear to the right first.



# TWO-PERSON: X-SHAPE DELAYED SINGLETON CLEAR

## STEP 2: Advance Clears to the Left

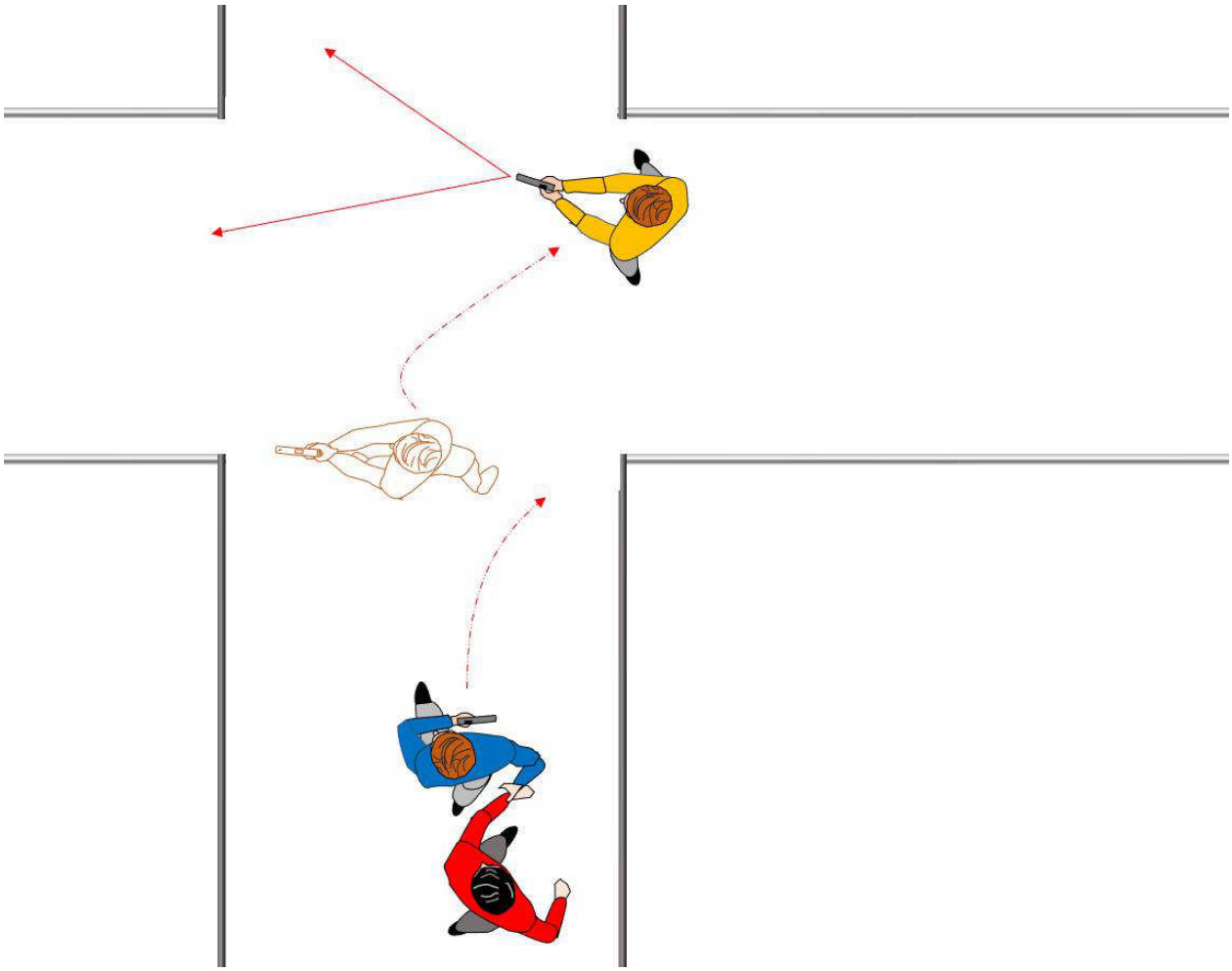
After clearing to the right, the advance quickly rotates to clear to the right while exposing as little of his/her body as possible. This is an example of using the quick clear technique for an X-shape intersection. As with other types of intersections, the advance can use any combination of clearing techniques based on the situation.



# TWO-PERSON: X-SHAPE DELAYED SINGLETON CLEAR

## STEP 3: Advance Assumes a Position to Cover the Detail

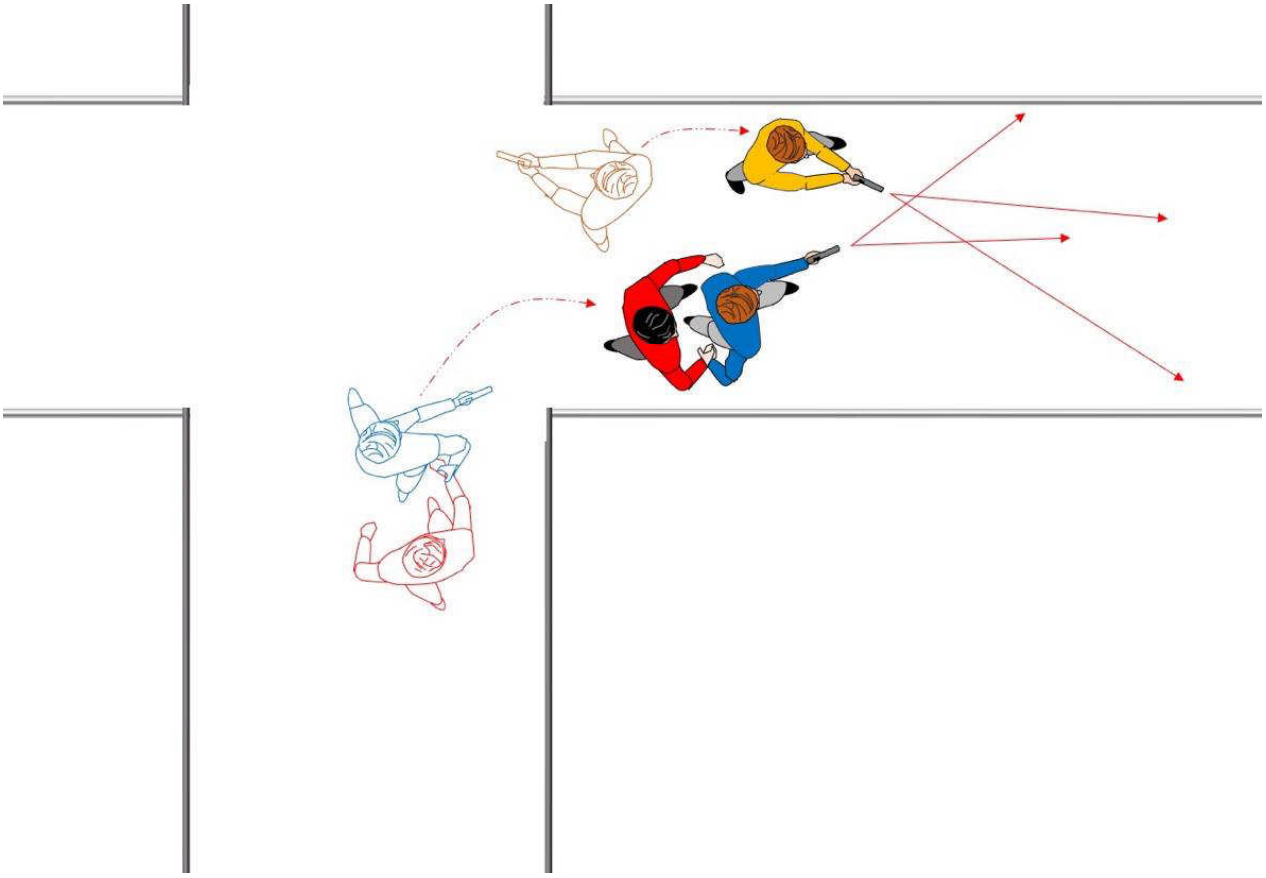
After the advance clears the intersection using a singleton technique, he/she will assume a position to best cover the VIP depending on the desired direction of movement. In the example below, the detail is turning right so the advance will position to cover the hallways to the left and front. If the detail wants to move straight forward, the advance will position to cover the direction of greatest threat and the OIC will pick up any uncovered danger areas while moving with the VIP.



# TWO-PERSON: X-SHAPE DELAYED SINGLETON CLEAR

## STEP 4: Detail Continues Movement Down the Hallway

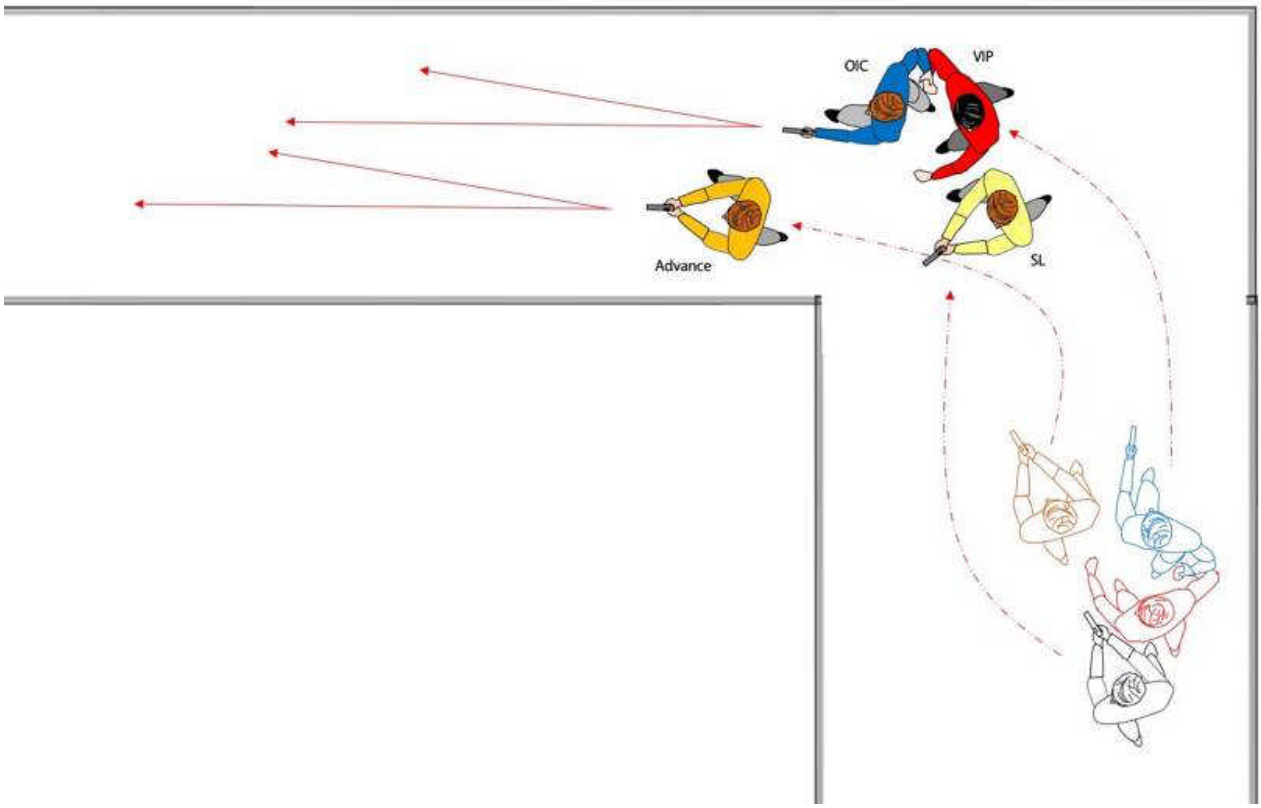
Once the OIC begins leading the VIP in the desired direction of travel down the hallway, the advance will break away from his/her static security position to rejoin the formation, employing whatever movement formation the detail deems appropriate.



# THREE-PERSON: L-SHAPE HALLWAY IMMEDIATE CLEAR

## Detail Turns the Corner in Formation

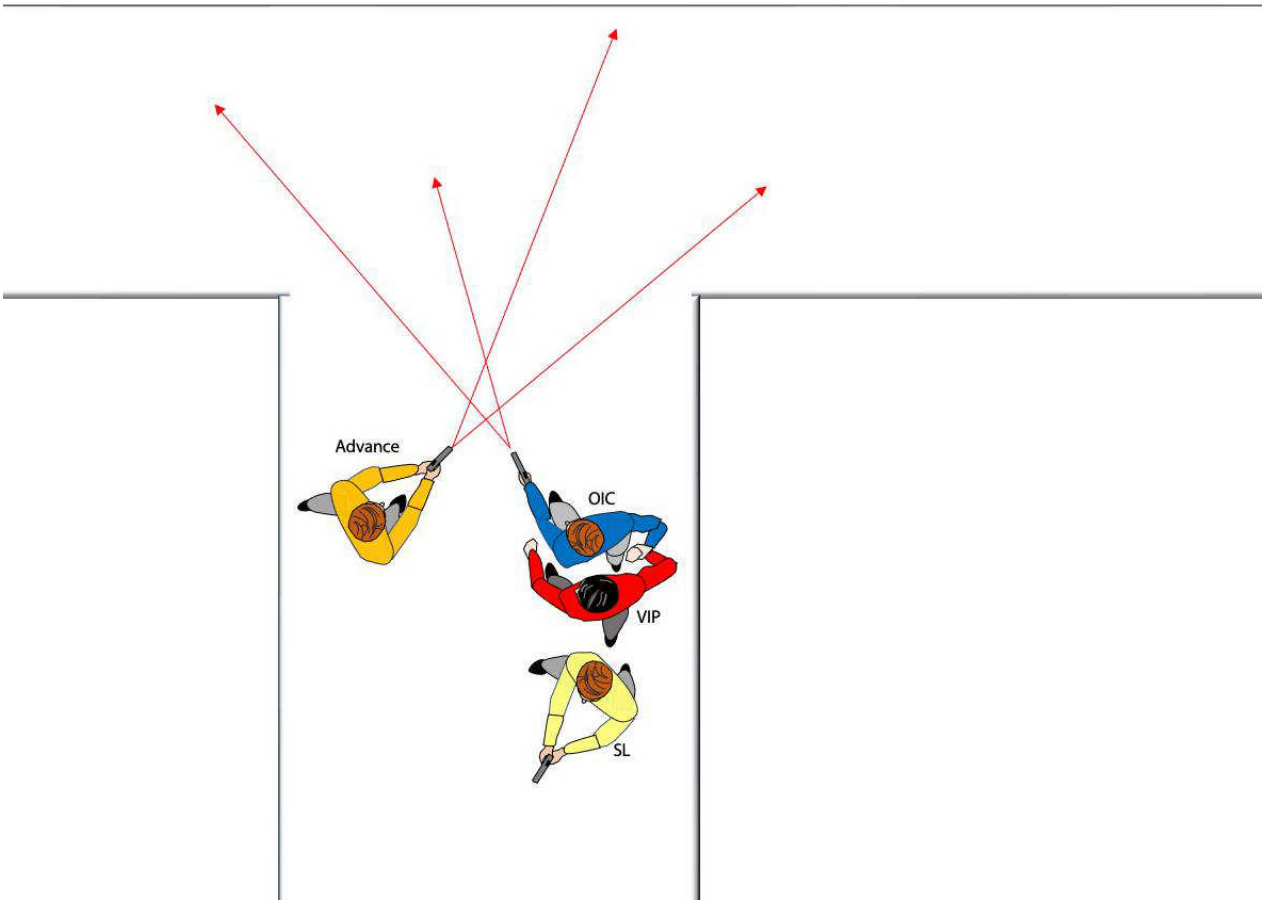
Conducting an immediate clear as a three-person detail is very similar to conducting an immediate clear as a two-person detail. The advance leads the way and the entire detail turns the corner in formation. In the example below, the OIC swings out further to establish cross coverage with the advance while the SL stays in back of the formation to provide rear security. Keep in mind that as you add detail members, conducting the turn around the corner becomes more complicated and there is a greater chance of accidental friendly-fire incidents. If one detail member drifts too wide or too tight while making the turn he/she can cross in front of another detail member's field of fire. Therefore, when making the turn in formation remain aware of all team members and maintain proper positioning and spacing. Note that while this example shows an immediate clear technique, a three-person detail can also employ delayed clearing techniques for an L-shape intersection which would look very similar to the delayed clearing techniques described earlier for a two-person detail.



# THREE-PERSON: T-SHAPE HALLWAY START POSITION

## Advance and OIC Establish Cross Coverage

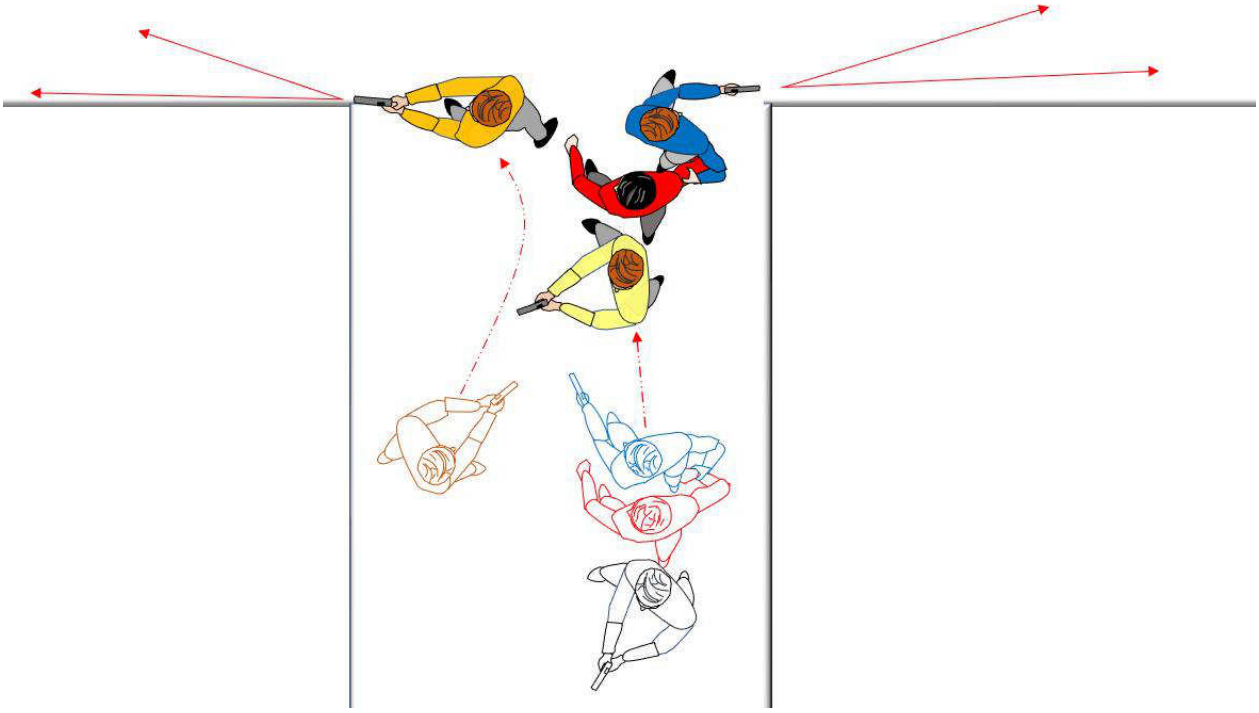
The start position for clearing a T-shape intersection with a three-person detail will look similar to the start position for a two-person detail. However, you will have an additional detail member to enhance security in the direction of your choice. In the example below, the advance and OIC establish cross coverage on the intersection while the SL remains in the rear to provide rear security. However, the SL can also momentarily give up rear security, pass by the OIC/VIP and establish cross coverage with the advance.



# THREE-PERSON: T-SHAPE HALLWAY IMMEDIATE CLEAR

## Detail Clears Corners Simultaneously in Formation

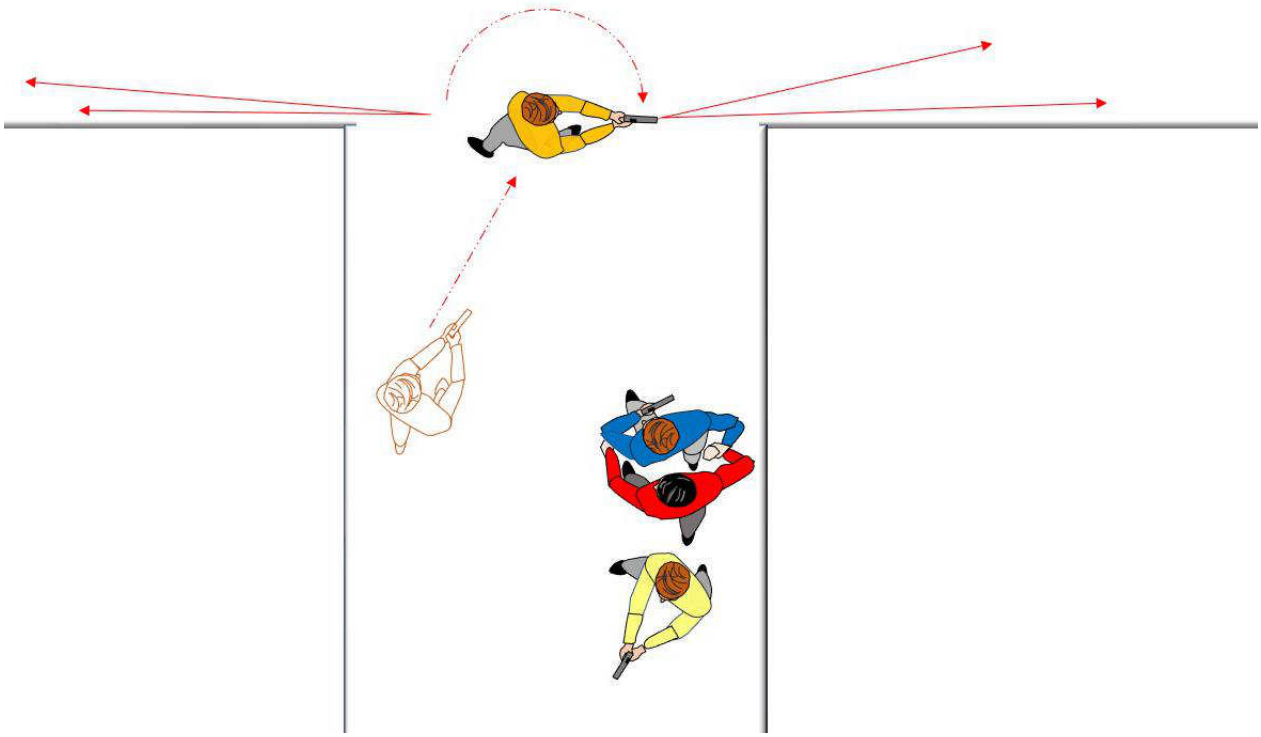
If the primary threat is to the rear, the detail may choose to employ an immediate clear technique to turn to the right or left as quickly as possible. This technique looks very similar to the immediate clear for a two-person detail except the SL can remain in back of the formation and provide rear security. As already mentioned, it is also possible for the SL to move forward and clear to the left or right in place of the OIC while the OIC stays back with the VIP. Either way, the immediate clear calls for all detail members to make the turn as quickly as possible as a single element in order to get out of the intersection.



# THREE-PERSON: T-SHAPE DELAYED SINGLETON CLEAR

## Advance Moves Forward to Conduct Singleton Clear

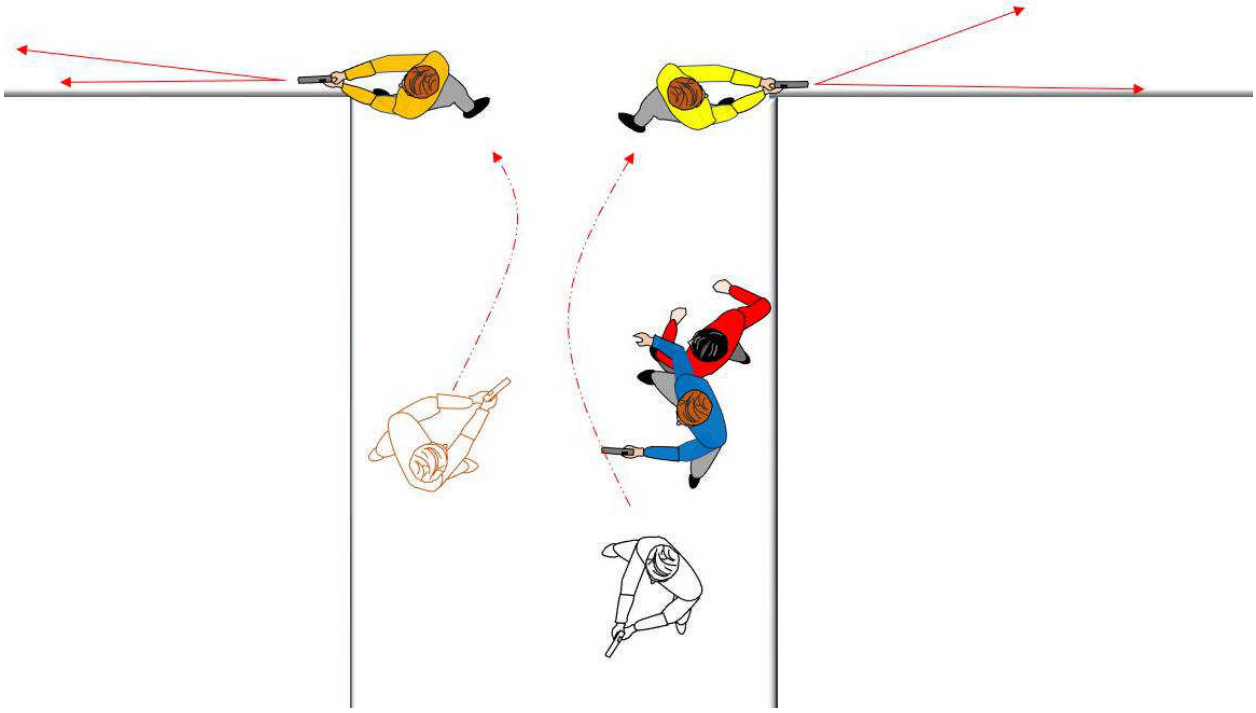
If the detail determines the greatest threat is to the front, they may choose to employ a delayed clearing technique for the intersection, sending one or two detail members ahead to clear while the OIC and VIP remain back at a safe distance. Once again, the detail can employ any combination of clearing techniques. In the example below, the advance moves forward to conduct a singleton quick-clear technique, being careful to expose as little of his/her body as possible by remaining behind the imaginary line extending across the threshold of the intersection. Once the advance completes the quick clear, the rest of the detail can turn to either the right or left and continue movement down the hallway.



# THREE-PERSON: T-SHAPE DELAYED SIMULTANEOUS CLEAR

## Advance and SL Clear the Intersection Simultaneously

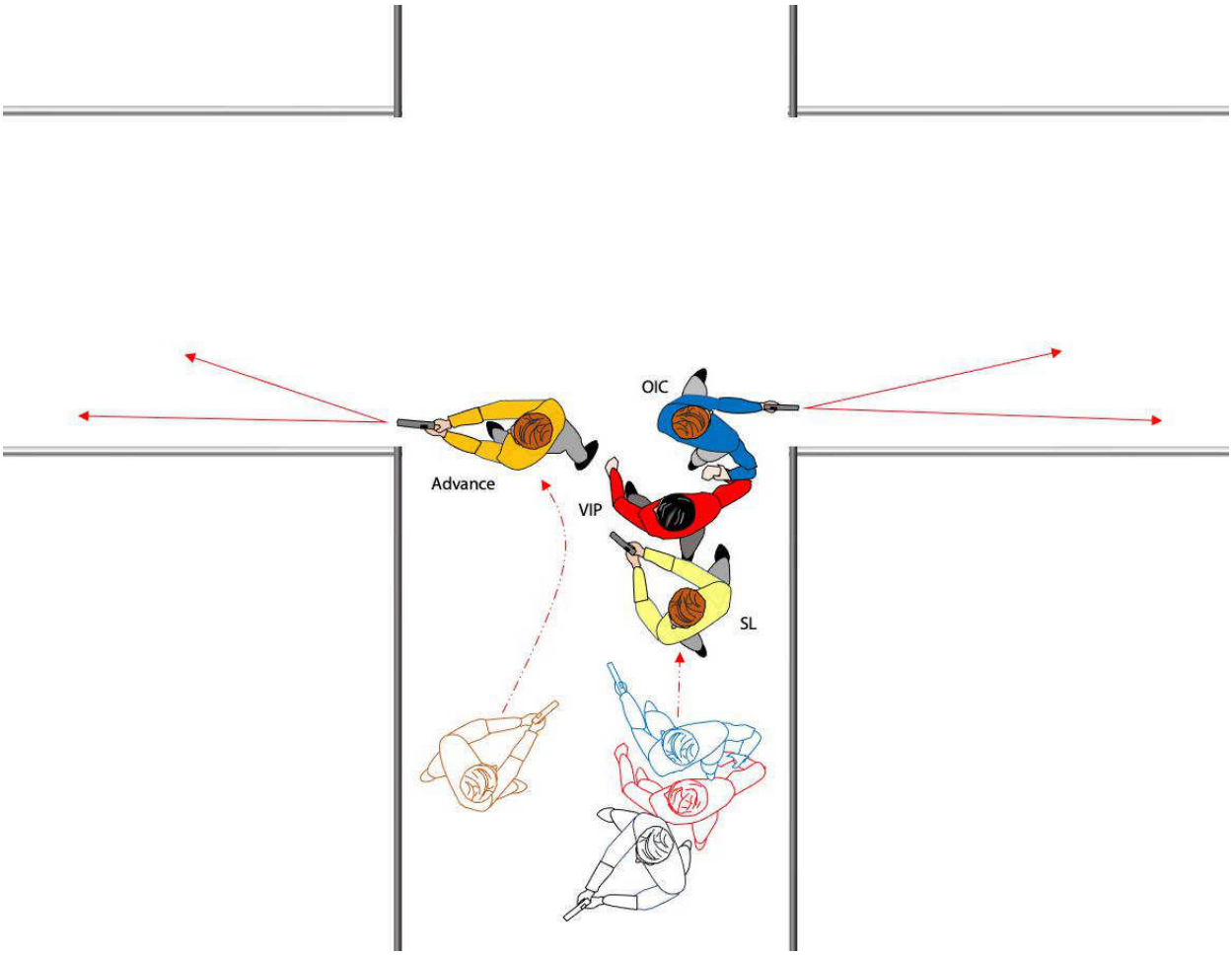
Conducting a delayed, simultaneous clear of a T-shape intersection with a three-person detail is very similar to the procedures for a two-person detail. However, because you have an additional detail member you will not need to leave the VIP alone in the hallway before moving forward. The OIC can remain with the VIP while the SL momentarily gives up rear security and moves around the detail to conduct the simultaneous clear with the advance. After clearing the intersection the detail will bring the VIP forward, reestablish its moving formation and turn either left or right down the hallway.



# THREE-PERSON: X-SHAPE HALLWAY IMMEDIATE CLEAR

## STEP 1: Detail Clears to the Left and Right

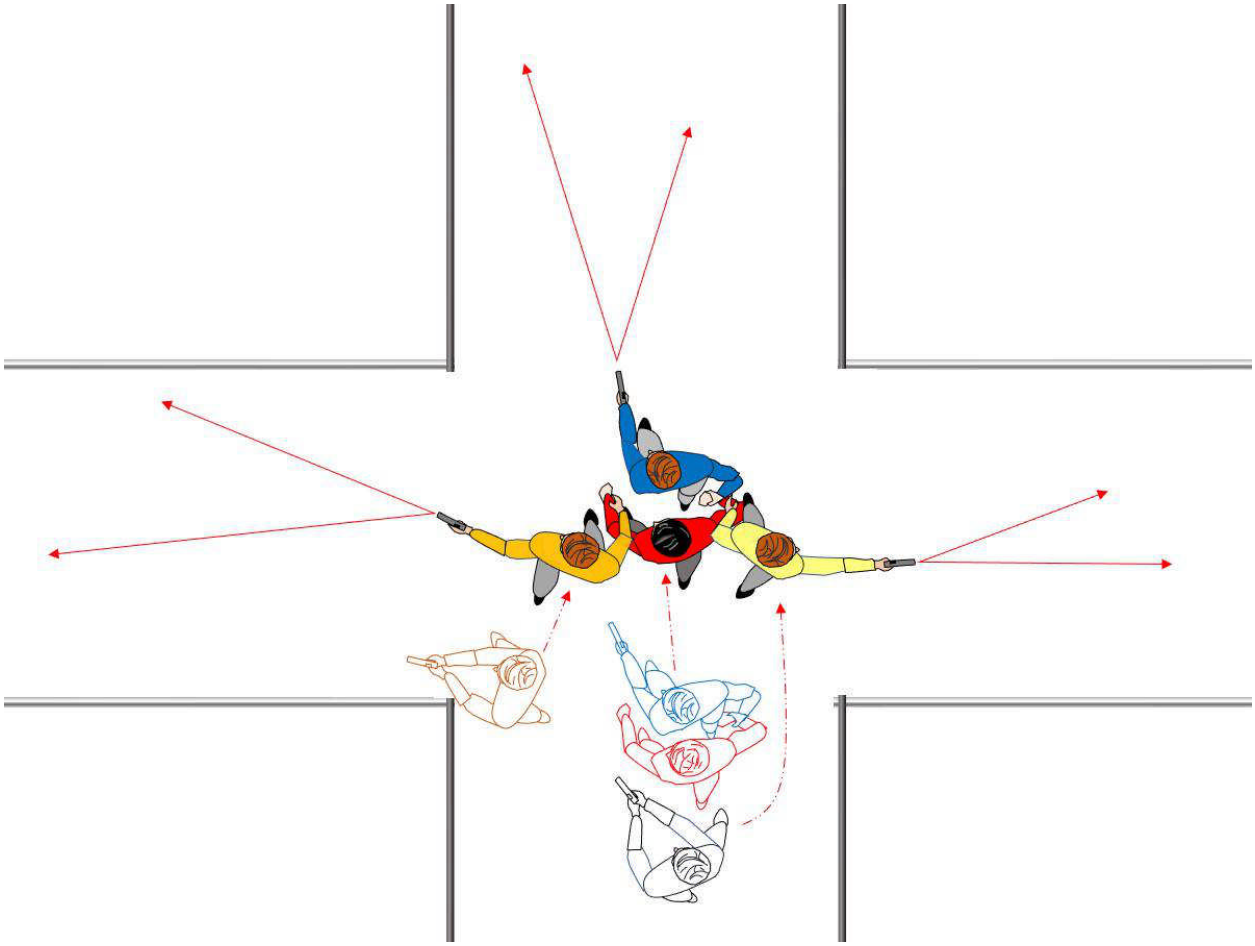
If the detail needs to move through the intersection as quickly as possible, the technique will look similar to the one used for a two-person detail, however, an additional detail member will allow you to cover more angles simultaneously as you move. Initially, the lead team members will clear to the right and left while continuing to move forward.



# THREE-PERSON: X-SHAPE HALLWAY IMMEDIATE CLEAR

## STEP 2: Detail Forms Protective Ring While Moving

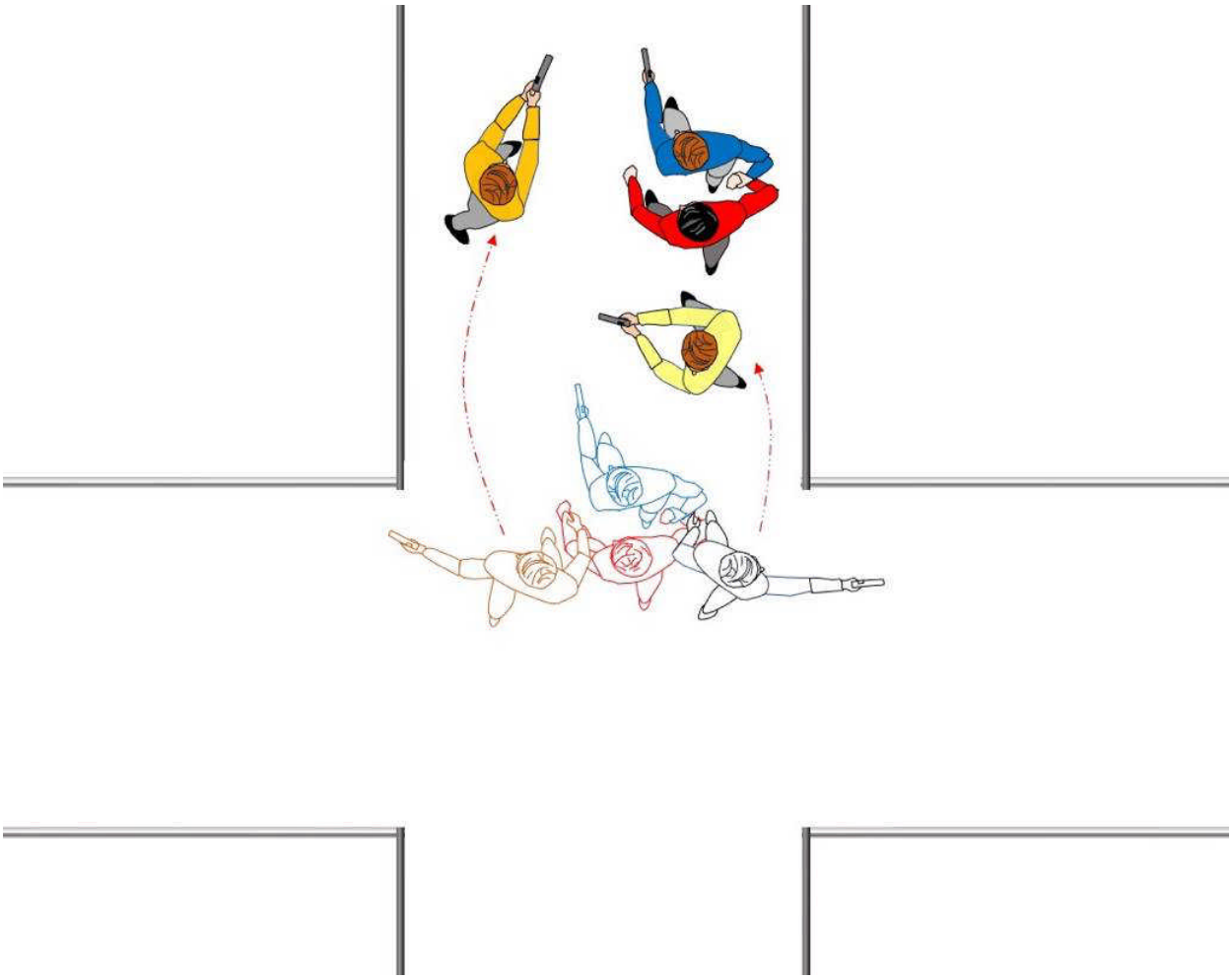
While bringing the VIP through the intersection, the detail can simultaneously cover to the front, left and right while providing good body coverage for the VIP. The lead detail member can use a one-handed pull control technique while the members to the left and right can employ the flank protection control technique. The detail should cross the intersection as quickly as possible. The detail can use the same general technique to turn right or left as well.



# THREE-PERSON: X-SHAPE HALLWAY IMMEDIATE CLEAR

## STEP 3: Detail Reassumes Movement Formation

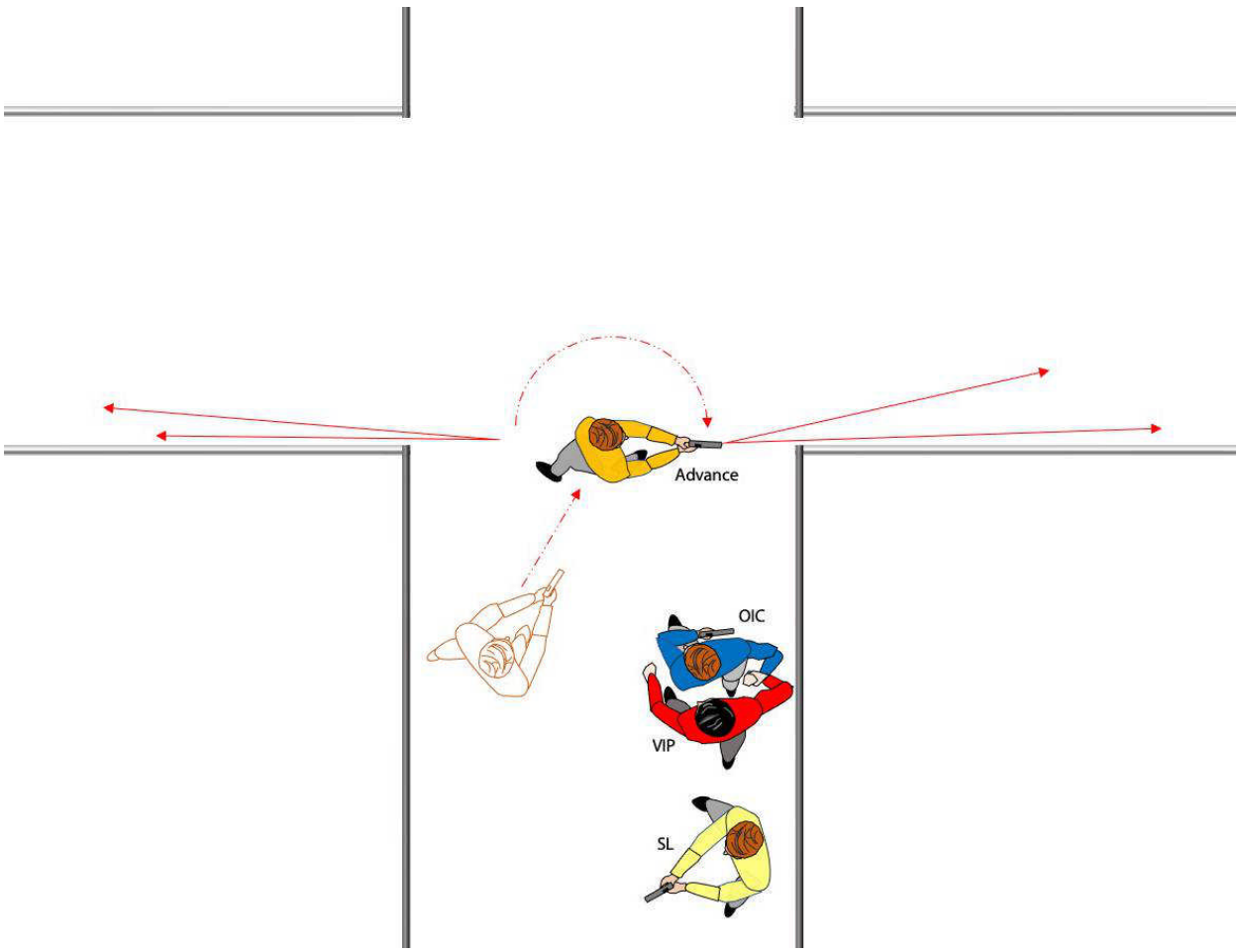
Once through the intersection, the detail should reassume its movement formation and establish cross coverage of the hallway.



# THREE-PERSON: X-SHAPE DELAYED SINGLETON CLEAR

## Advance Moves Forward to Conduct Singleton Clear

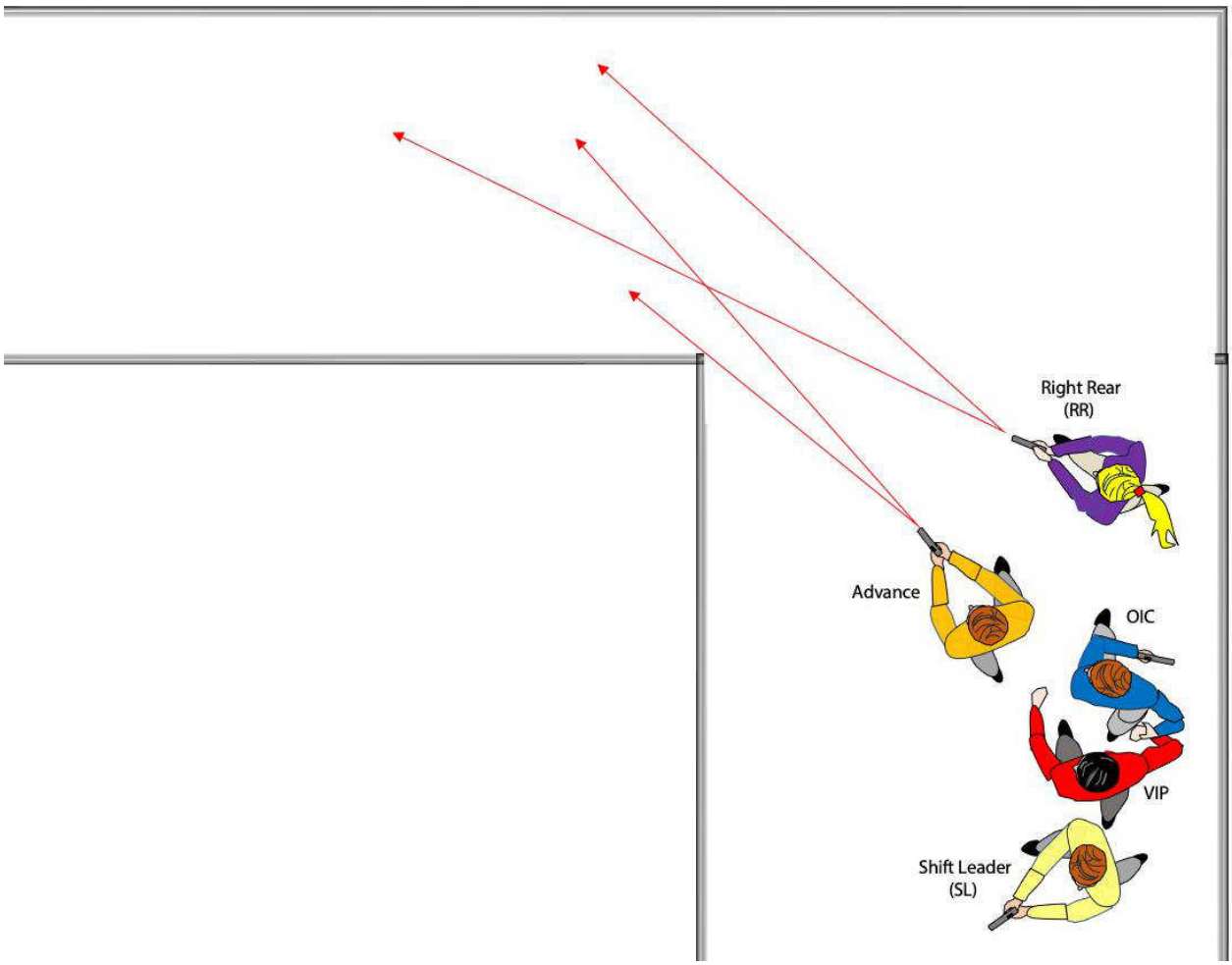
The procedures for executing a delayed clear of an X-intersection is almost the same as a T-intersection except that there are more angles to cover and additional movement directions. The detail can employ any combination of clearing techniques. In the example below, the advance moves forward to conduct a singleton quick-clear technique, being careful to expose as little of his/her body as possible by remaining behind the imaginary line extending across the threshold of the intersection. Once the advance completes the quick clear, the rest of the detail can move straight ahead or turn right or left down the hallway.



# FOUR-PERSON: L-SHAPE HALLWAY IMMEDIATE CLEAR

## STEP 1: Advance and Right Rear Approach the Corner

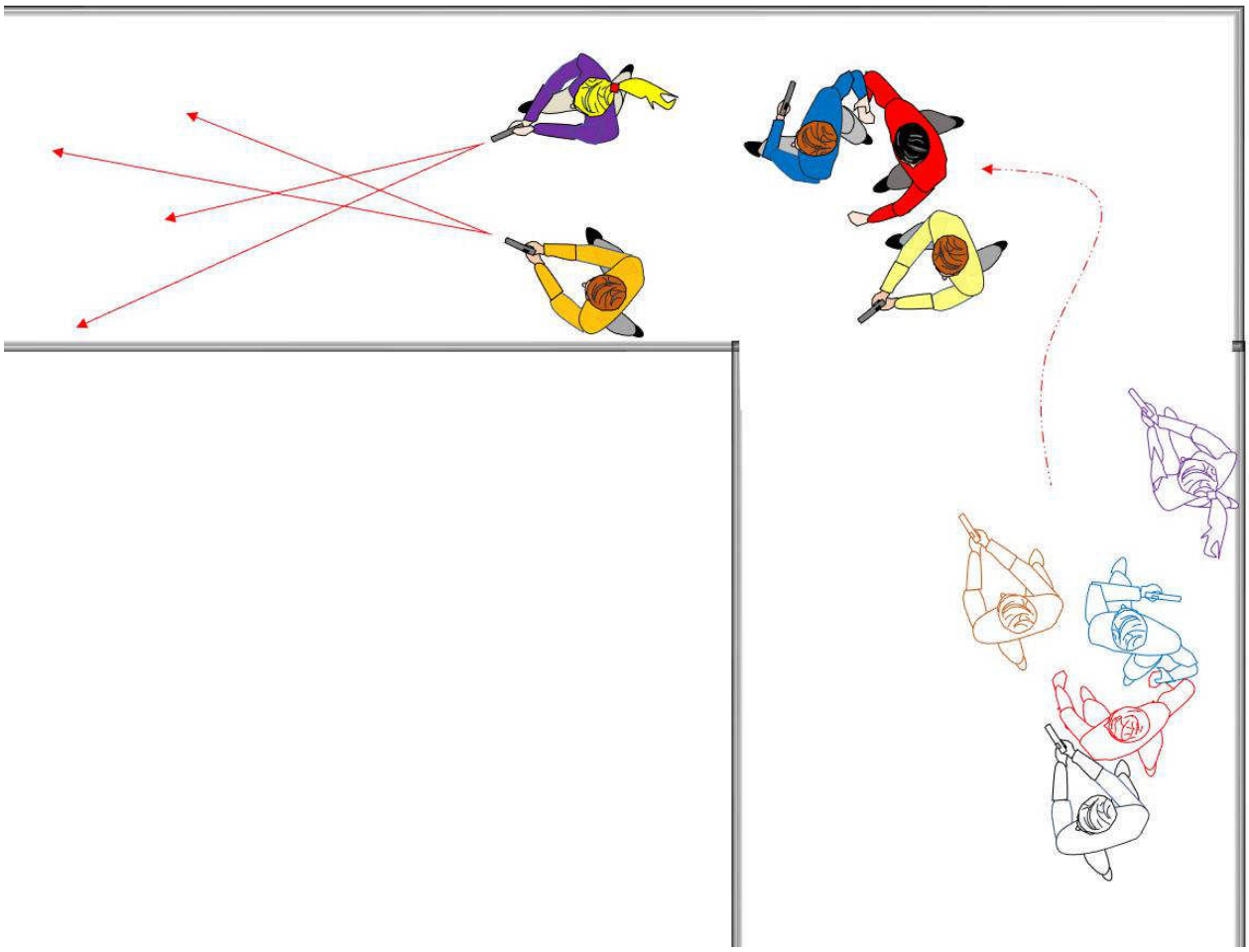
As with previous immediate clear techniques, the detail will turn the corner in formation as quickly as possible without stopping. However, a four-person detail offers more manpower to cover additional angles and provide body coverage for the VIP. In the example below, instead of the advance leading the formation alone, the advance and Right Rear (RR) lead the formation together, providing two guns to deal with threats to the front. The advance and RR can use whichever two-person corner clearing technique that best fits the situation. However, when clearing a corner with a partner it is important to ensure you do not drift to the right or left into your partner's field of fire.



# FOUR-PERSON: L-SHAPE HALLWAY IMMEDIATE CLEAR

## STEP 2: Detail Turns the Corner in Formation

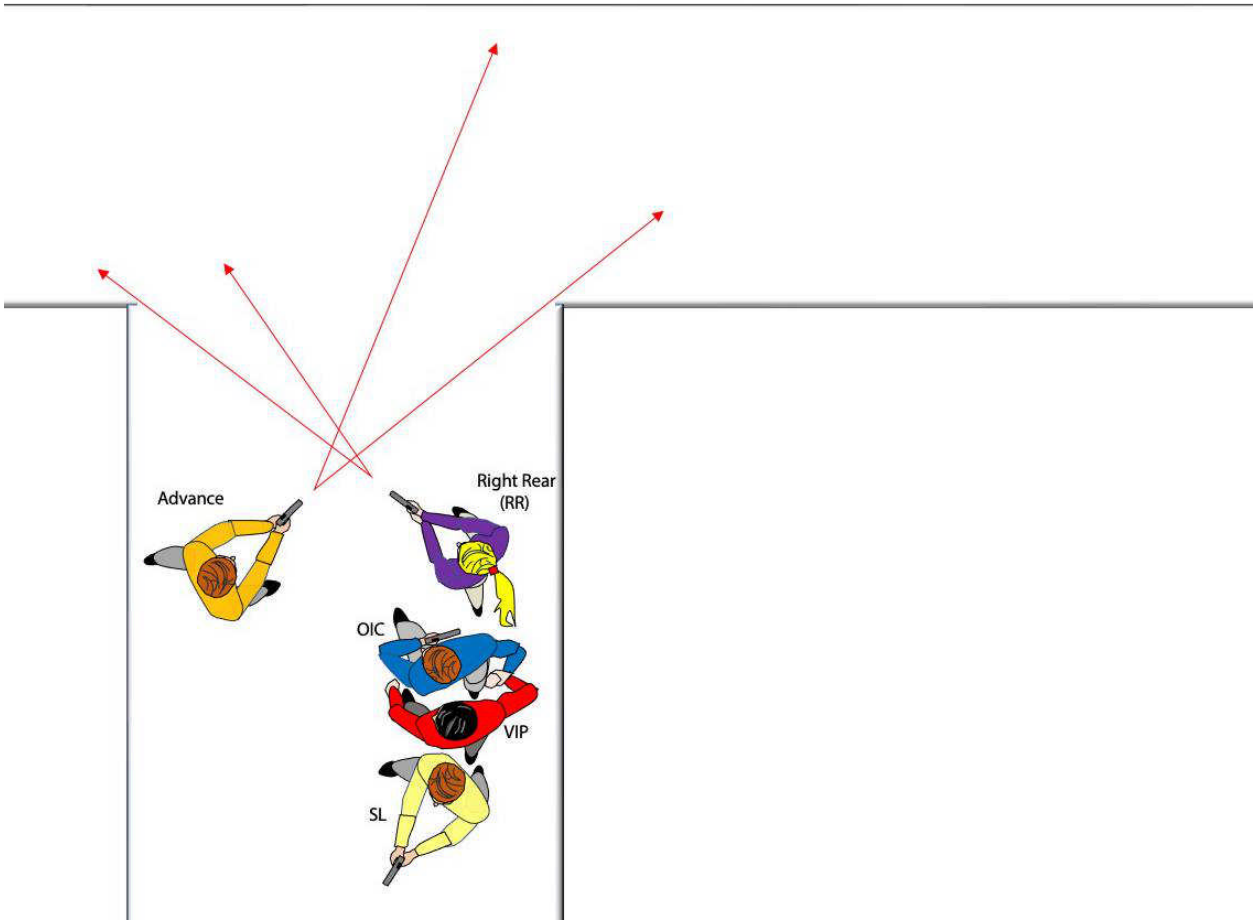
As in previous techniques, turn the corner in formation as quickly as possible. In the example below, the advance and RR provide cross coverage to the front while the SL provides rear security. The OIC focuses on maintaining positive control of the VIP using whatever control technique best fits the situation. Note that while this example shows an immediate clear technique, a four-person detail can also employ delayed clearing techniques for an L-shape intersection which would look very similar to the delayed clearing techniques described earlier for a two or three-person detail.



# FOUR-PERSON: T-SHAPE HALLWAY START POSITION

## Advance and Right Rear Establish Cross Coverage

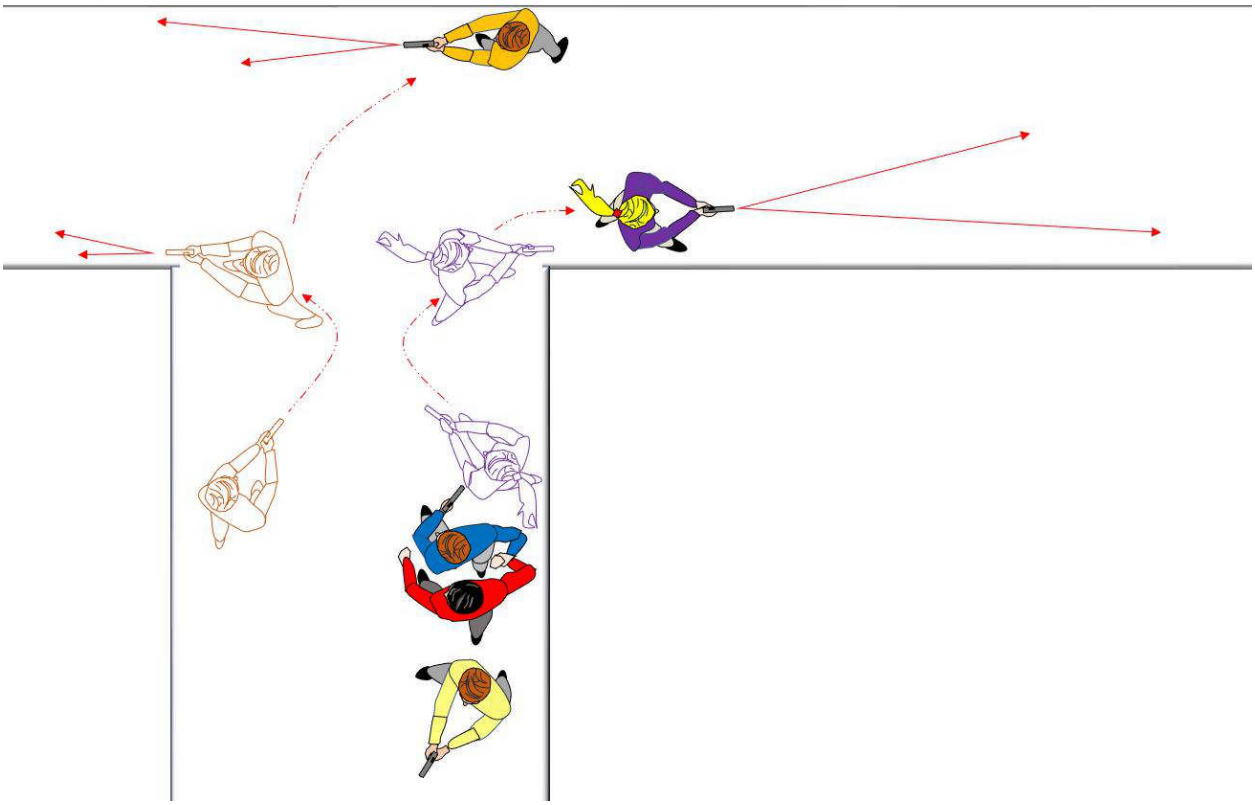
The start position for clearing a T-shape intersection with a four-person detail will look similar to the start position for a three-person detail. However, you will have an additional detail member to enhance security in the direction of your choice or provide additional body coverage for the VIP. In the example below, the advance and RR establish cross coverage on the intersection while the SL remains in the rear to provide rear security. The OIC maintains positive control of the VIP in the center of the formation.



# FOUR-PERSON: T-SHAPE HALLWAY IMMEDIATE CLEAR

## STEP 1: Advance and Right Rear Secure the Intersection

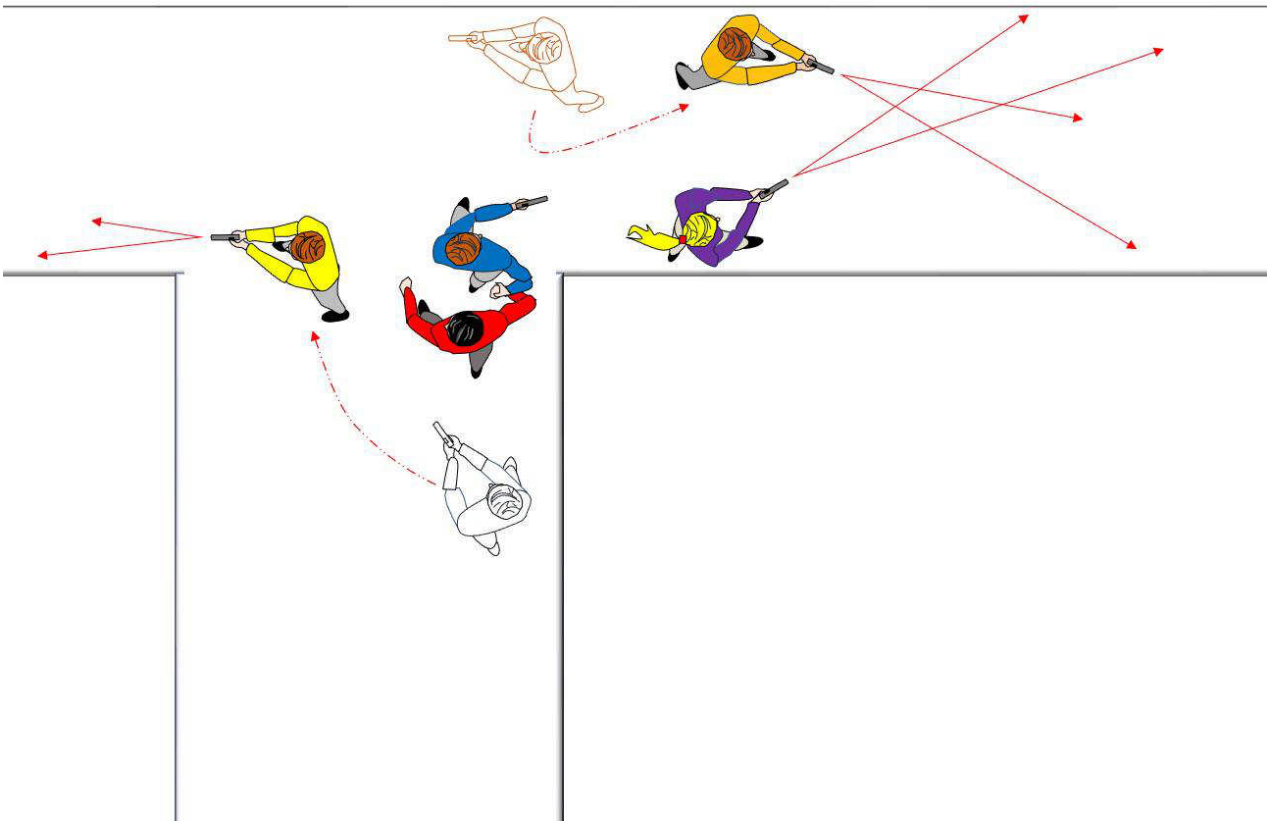
If the detail needs to move through the intersection quickly without stopping, the two lead detail members will quickly move into the intersection to provide cover to the left and right. In the example below, the advance and RR secure the intersection while leaving room for the rest of the detail to follow behind and reestablish the movement formation.



# FOUR-PERSON: T-SHAPE HALLWAY IMMEDIATE CLEAR

## STEP 2: Detail Turns the Corner

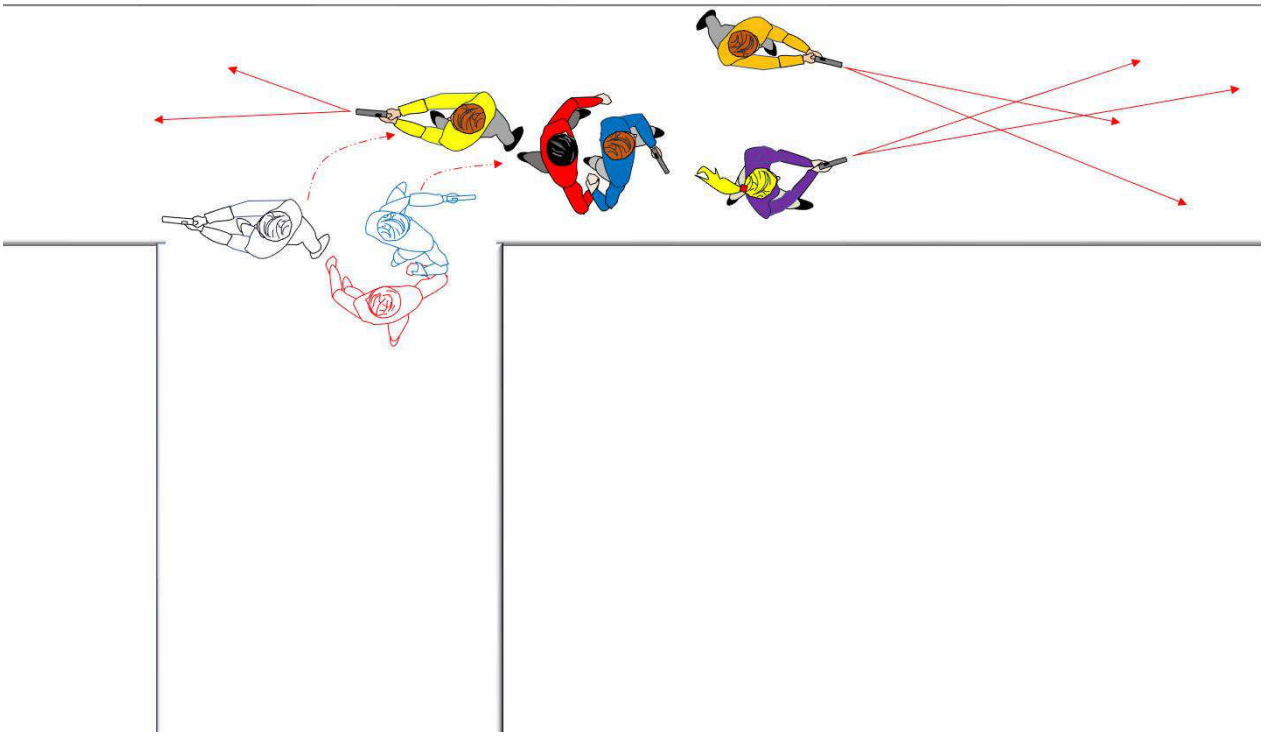
As the detail comes around the corner, the OIC and VIP will follow behind the advance and RR while the SL picks up rear security. When the SL picks up rear security whichever team member that was holding in that direction (the advance in the example below) can give up coverage and turn to face in the direction of movement.



# FOUR-PERSON: T-SHAPE HALLWAY IMMEDIATE CLEAR

## STEP 3: Detail Resumes Movement in Formation

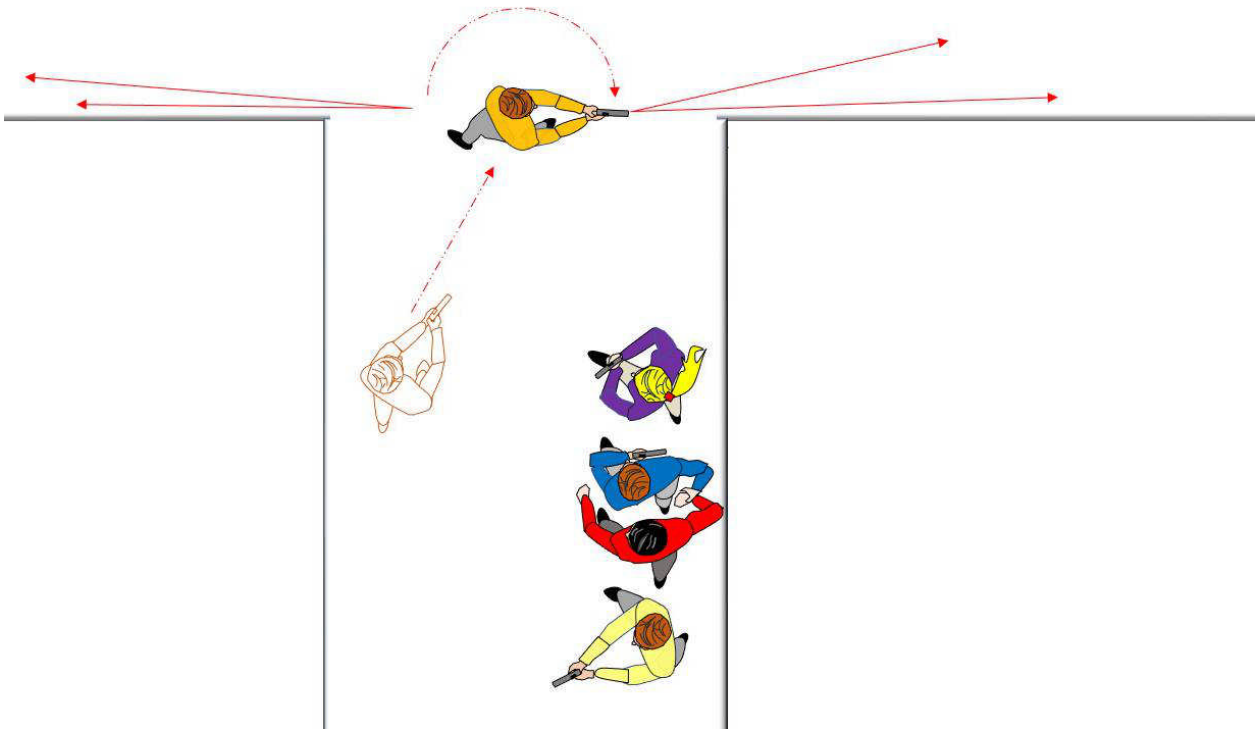
Once the detail fully turns the corner to either the right or left, all detail members will reestablish their movement formation and proceed down the hall. In this example, the advance and RR establish cross coverage while the SL holds rear security. The OIC maintains positive control of the VIP.



# FOUR-PERSON: T-SHAPE DELAYED SINGLETON CLEAR

## Advance Moves Forward to Conduct Singleton Clear

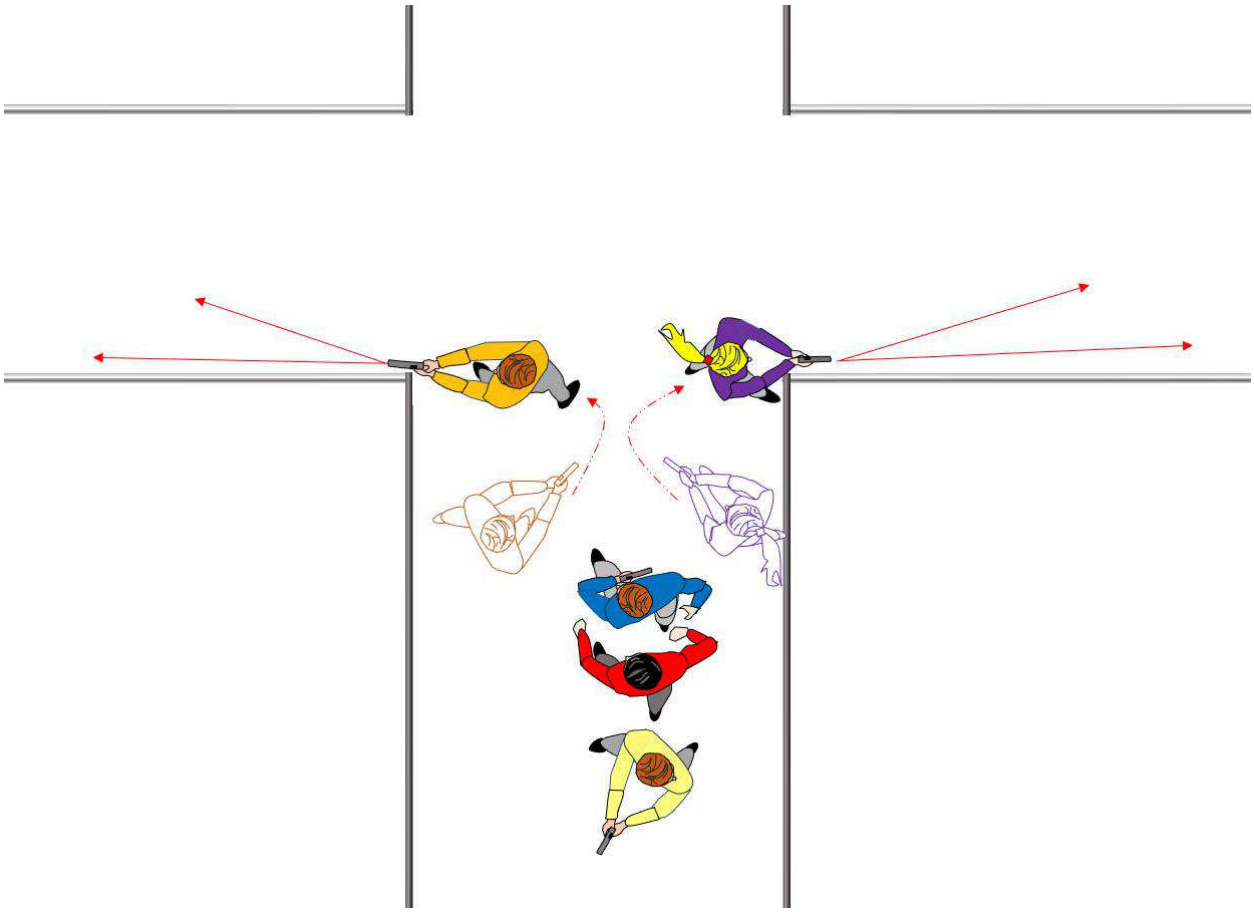
If the detail determines the greatest threat is to the front, they may choose to employ a delayed clearing technique for the intersection, sending one or two detail members ahead to clear while the OIC, VIP and SL remain back at a safe distance. Once again, the detail can employ any combination of clearing techniques. In the example below, the advance moves forward to conduct a singleton quick-clear technique, being careful to expose as little of his/her body as possible by remaining behind the imaginary line extending across the threshold of the intersection. Once the advance completes the quick clear, the rest of the detail can turn to either the right or left and continue movement down the hallway.



# FOUR-PERSON: X-SHAPE HALLWAY IMMEDIATE CLEAR

## STEP 1: Detail Clears to the Left and Right

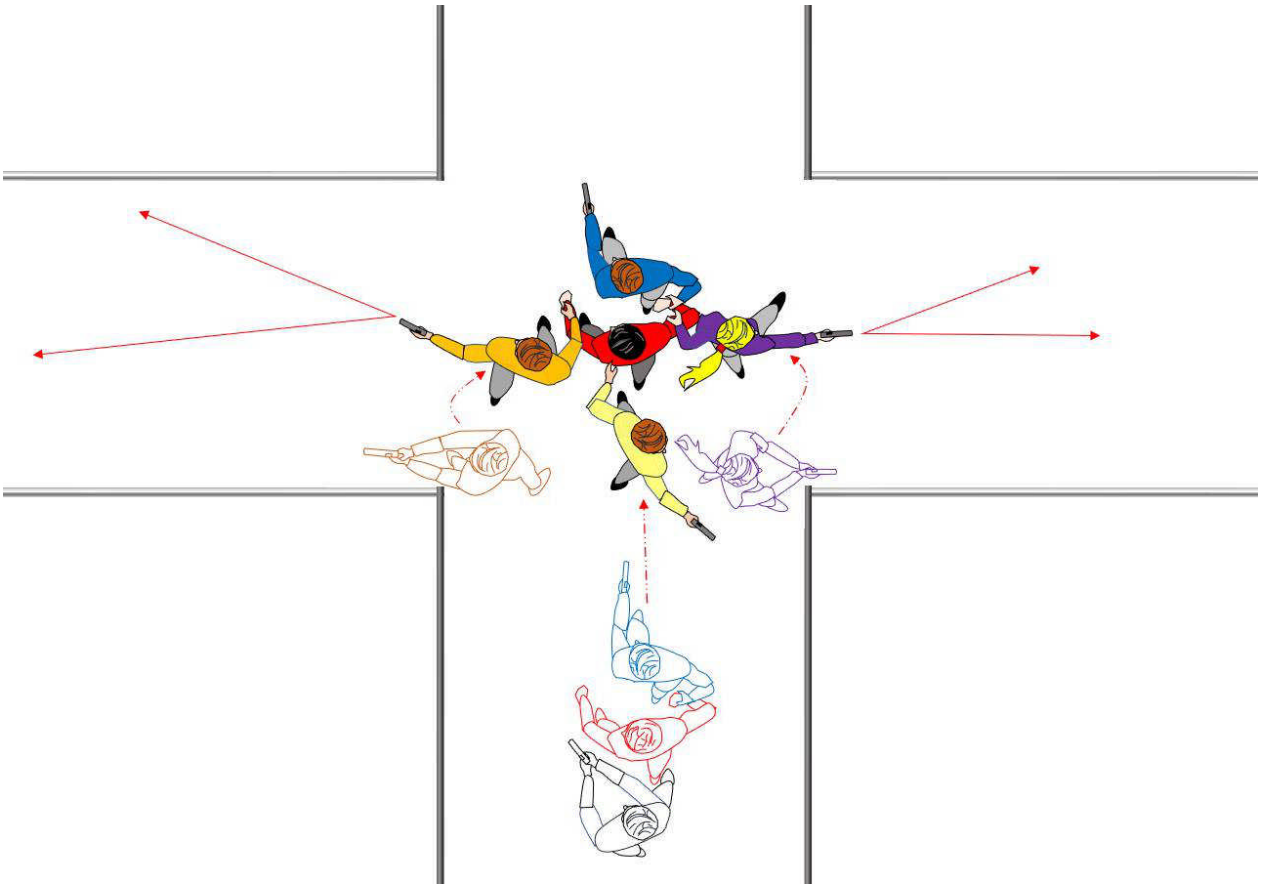
If the detail needs to move through the intersection as quickly as possible, the technique will look similar to the one used for a three-person detail, however, an additional detail member will allow you to provide complete, 360-degree coverage while you move with detail members covering the front, left, right and rear. Initially, the lead team members will clear to the right and left while continuing to move forward.



# FOUR-PERSON: X-SHAPE HALLWAY IMMEDIATE CLEAR

## STEP 2: Detail Forms Protective Ring While Moving

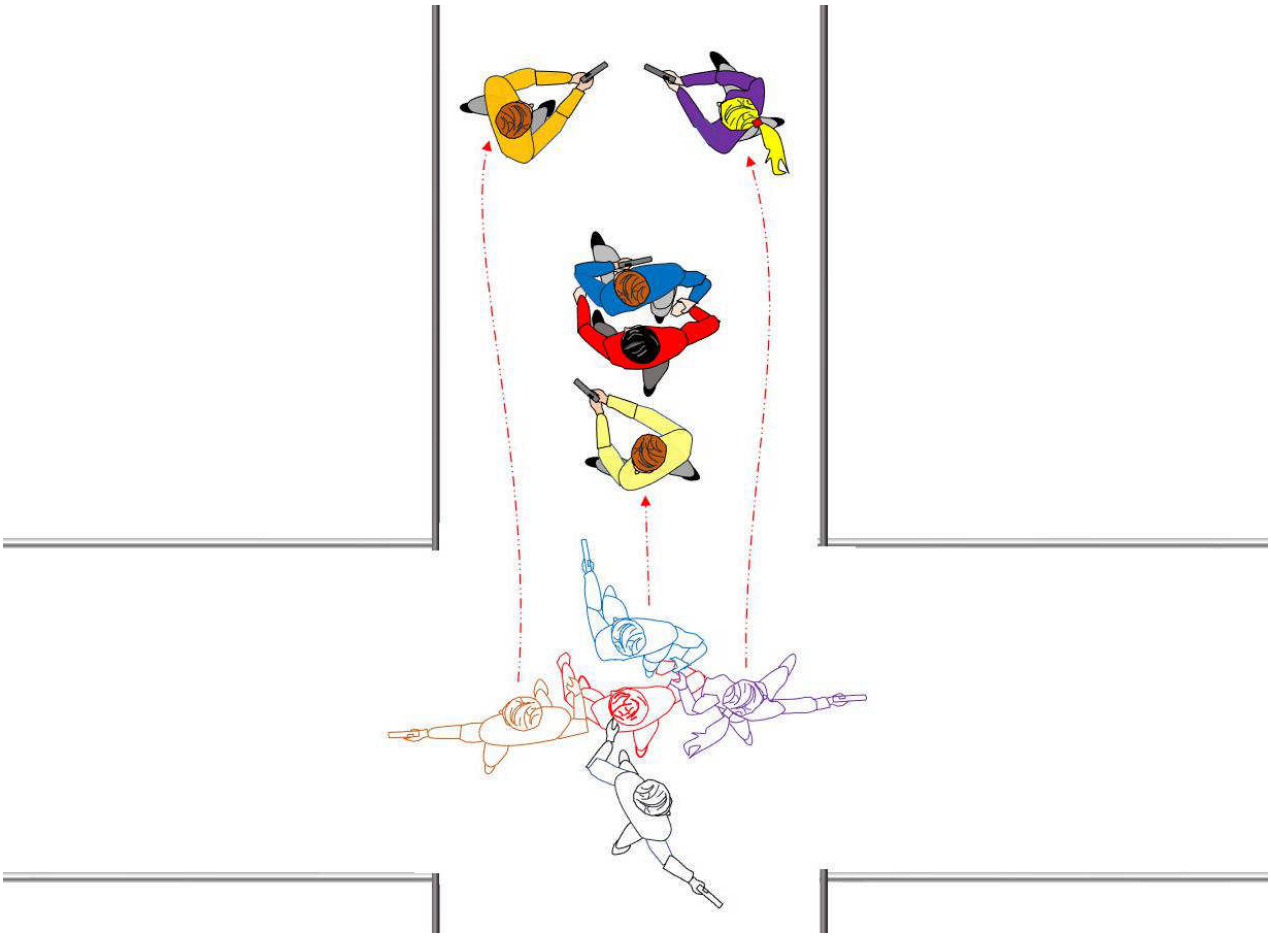
While bringing the VIP through the intersection, the detail can simultaneously cover to the front, left, right and rear while providing good body coverage for the VIP. The lead detail member can use a one-handed pull control technique while the members to the left and right can employ the flank protection control technique. The detail should cross the intersection as quickly as possible. The detail can use the same general technique to turn right or left as well.



# FOUR-PERSON: X-SHAPE HALLWAY IMMEDIATE CLEAR

## STEP 3: Detail Reassumes Movement Formation

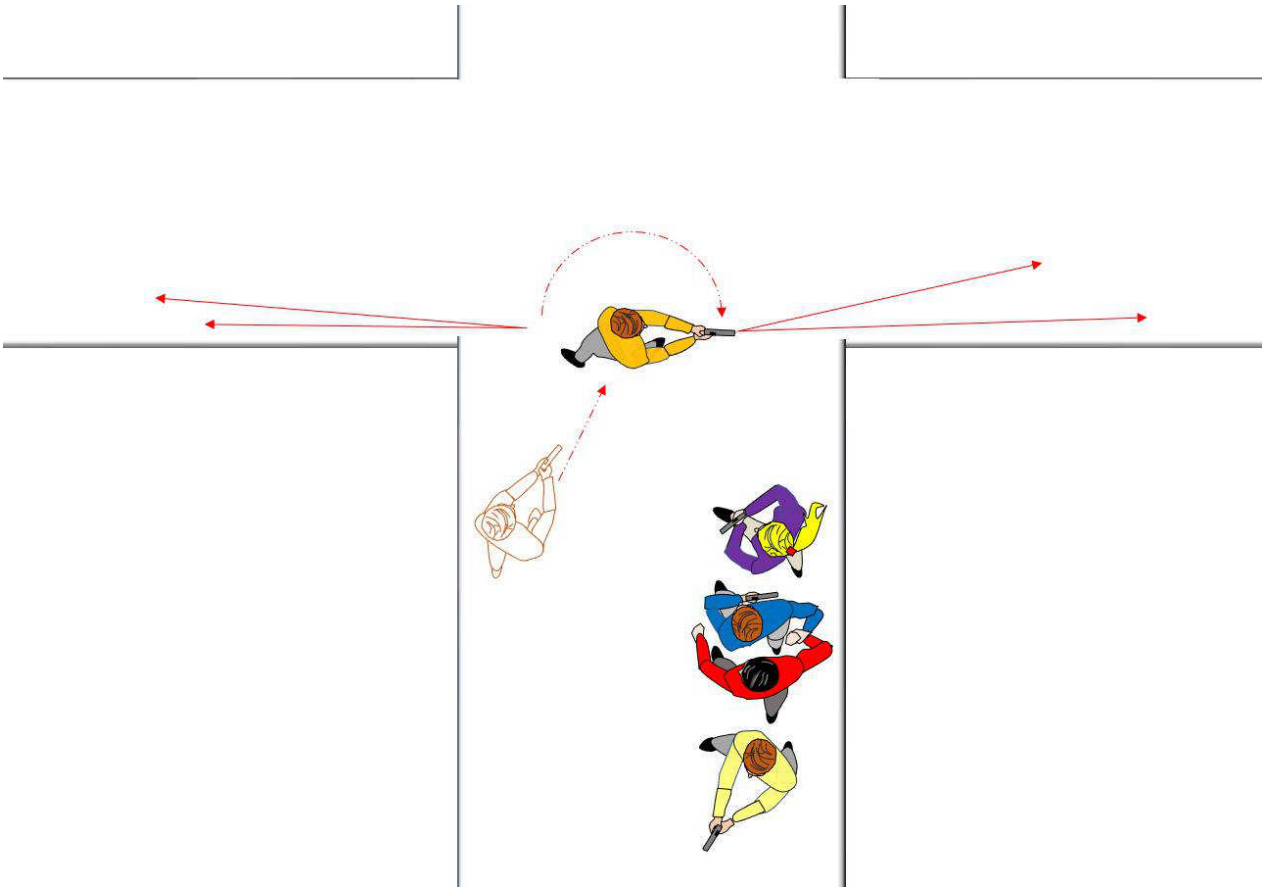
Once through the intersection, the detail should reassume its movement formation and establish cross coverage of the hallway.



# FOUR-PERSON: X-SHAPE DELAYED SINGLETON CLEAR

## Advance Moves Forward to Conduct Singleton Clear

If the detail determines the greatest threat is to the front, they may choose to employ a delayed clearing technique for the intersection, sending one or two detail members ahead to clear while the OIC, VIP and SL remain back at a safe distance. Once again, the detail can employ any combination of clearing techniques. In the example below, the advance moves forward to conduct a singleton quick-clear technique, being careful to expose as little of his/her body as possible by remaining behind the imaginary line extending across the threshold of the intersection. Once the advance completes the quick clear, the rest of the detail can turn to either the right or left or continue moving straight down the hallway.



# DANGER AREAS
# Stairwell Movement

A stairwell is another common danger area that the detail might face in an emergency situation. In some cases, there will be no other option but to move the VIP up or down stairs in order to reach a safehaven or evacuation point. Like hallways, stairwells confine the moving formation and force the detail to bunch together, making the detail very vulnerable to bursts of fire or explosions. The solid materials and metal beams used in stairwell construction increases the level of risk since bullets will tend ricochet in a stairwell. Stairwells offer many angles and danger areas for the detail to cover and allow threats to shoot at the VIP from any direction including above and below. For all of these reasons, the detail should attempt to get out of the stairwell as quickly as possible.

The following section covers basic principles of stairwell clearing for two-person, three-person and four-person details. As discussed in the following examples, there might be situations where the detail cannot cover all angles or danger areas simultaneously. In these cases, detail members will need to give up something to gain something, choosing to focus on danger areas that present the greatest threat.

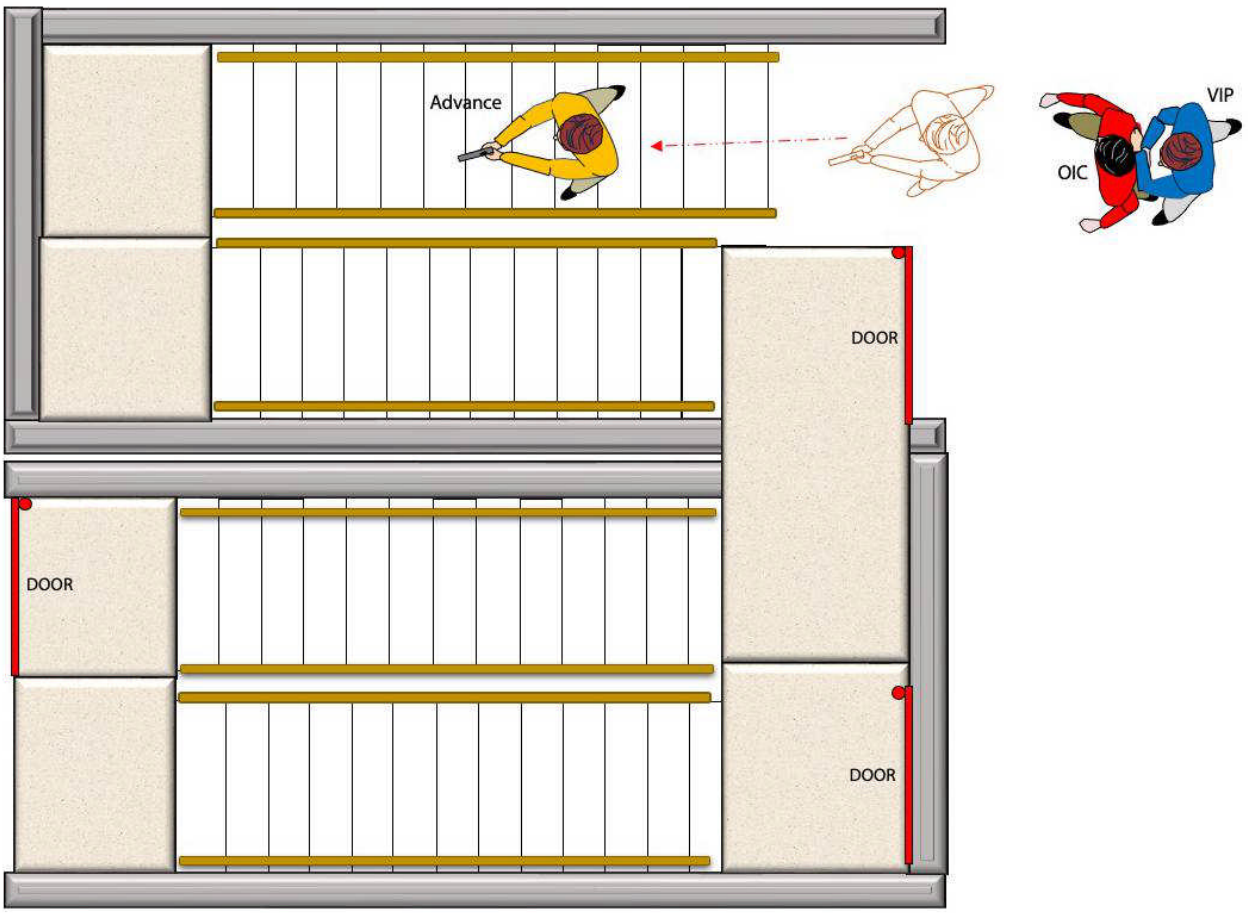
It is also important to remember that while the detail should move through and out of the stairwell as quickly as possible, moving too fast up or down stairs presents a serious risk in itself. It is a serious danger that the VIP could be injured or even killed from tripping and falling down the stairs. This is especially the case if the VIP is older or in poor health. Therefore, while speed is critical, it is equally important to ensure the VIP does not trip and fall. This is especially difficult in the dark.

Finally, the diagrams in this section are laid out in an “s-curve” shape with the stairwell snaking back and forth from landing to landing. This does not realistically depict the configuration of most stairwells, but it allows for much clearer representation of multiple landings and floors simultaneously. The diagrams should be self-explanatory and the fundamental tactical principles remain the same. Also, all of the techniques in this section apply to details moving either up or down the stairwell. While there are minor differences in posture when moving up or down, the fundamental techniques remain the same.

# TWO-PERSON: STAIRWELL MOVEMENT

## STEP 1: Advance Moves Ahead into the Stairwell

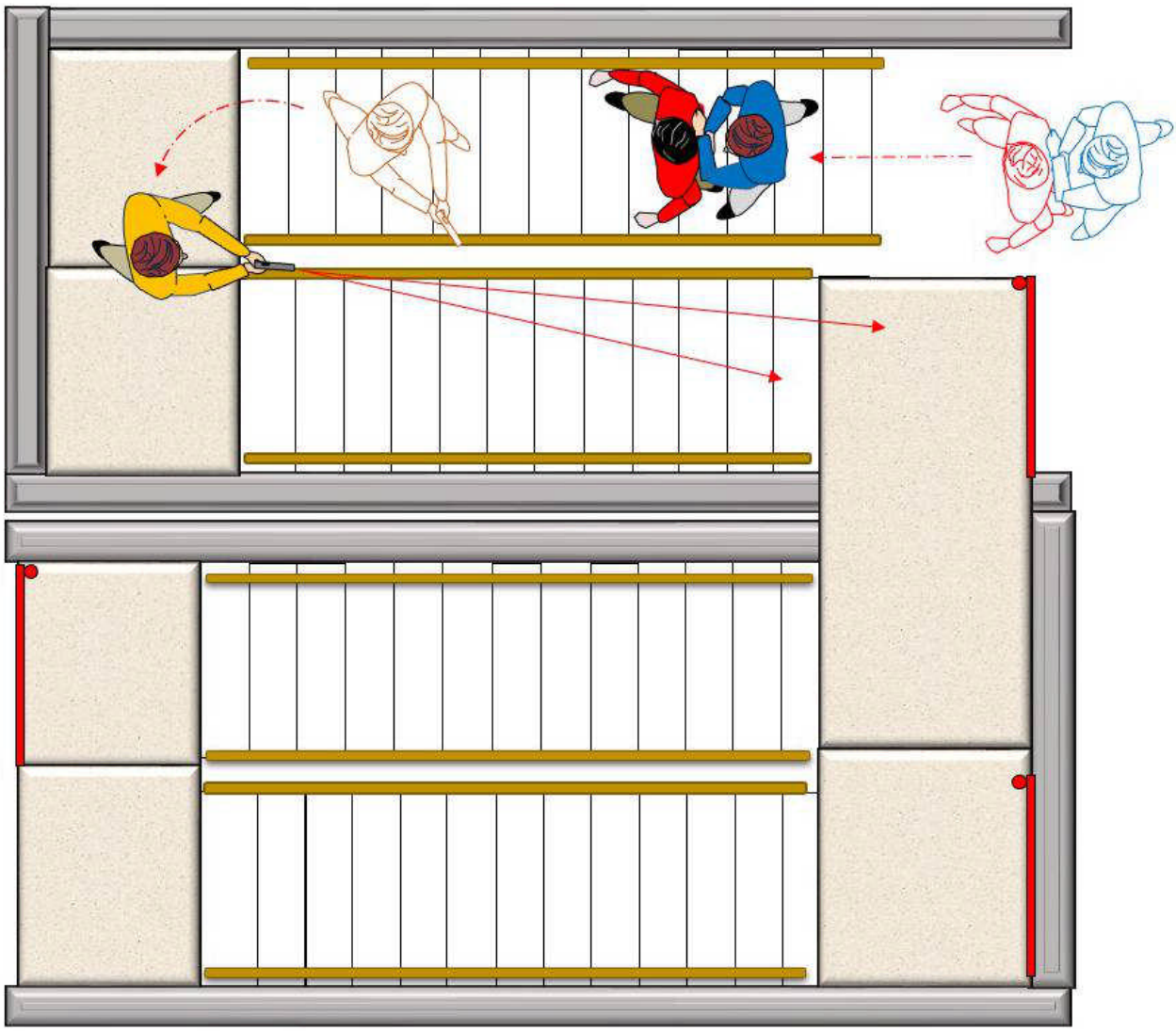
The example below applies to moving both up and down a stairwell. First, the advance should move ahead into the stairwell, keeping some distance from the OIC and VIP. The advance will adjust his/her angle to best cover the areas of greatest threat. This generally means moving close to the outside of the stairwell and rotating inward while moving to see the next landing as soon as possible. The OIC should follow behind, maintaining positive control of the VIP. Since it is more likely that the VIP may trip on the stairs, effective control is particularly important.



# TWO-PERSON: STAIRWELL MOVEMENT

## STEP 2: Advance Clears the First Landing

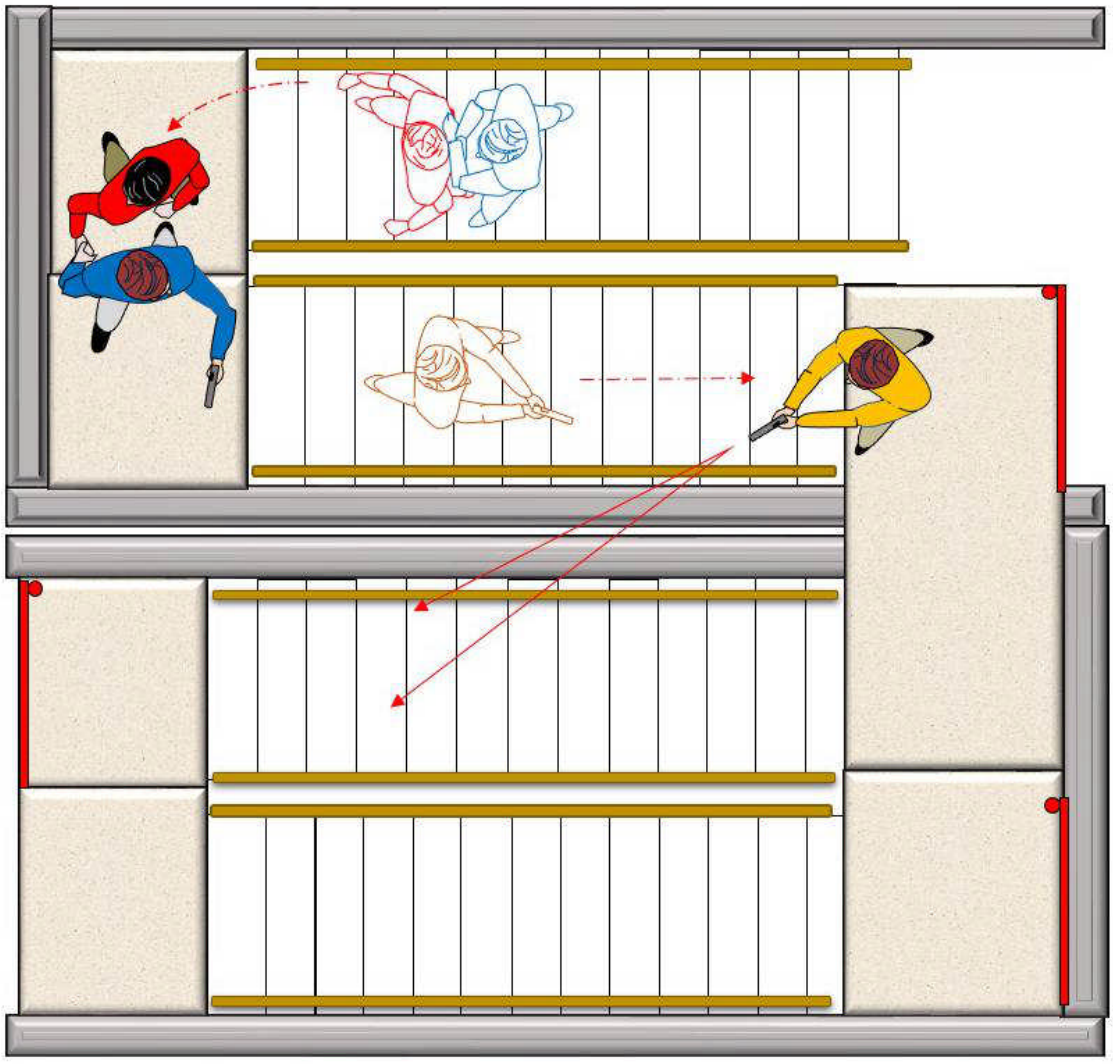
As the advance moves forward in the lead, he/she will continue to rotate inward towards the next stairwell landing (either up or down). It is important that the advance walk carefully and not walk backwards to avoid tripping on the stairs. Once the advance reaches the first landing, he/she should be facing directly up/down the stairs towards the next landing with good visibility up/down the shaft of the stairwell. The OIC and VIP will follow behind at a safe distance, maintaining visual contact with the advance.



# TWO-PERSON: STAIRWELL MOVEMENT

## STEP 3: Advance Clears the Second Landing

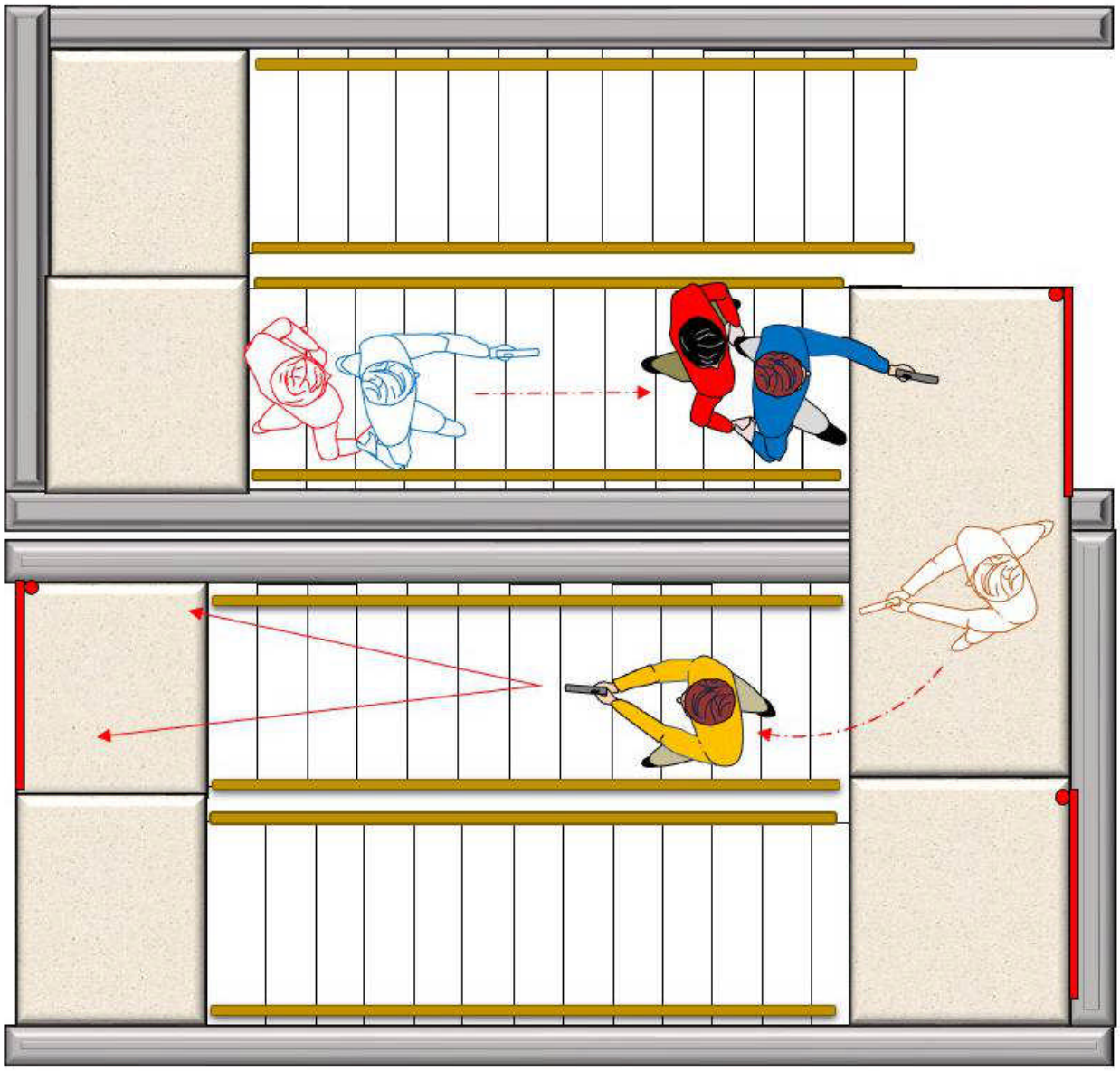
In this example, the second landing of the stairwell has a door or access point to a floor in the building. When encountering a landing with an access point, the advance has two different angles or danger areas he/she must cover. The advance can either cover the access point on the landing or continue to cover in the direction of movement, up or down the stairs. As a singleton element, it is generally difficult to cover both effectively at the same time. Therefore, the best approach is for the advance to quickly check both danger areas but then pick one of the two to focus on. In the example below, the advance chooses to focus on continuing to cover in the direction of movement which means that the OIC will need to be prepared to cover the access point as the VIP approaches the landing.



# TWO-PERSON: STAIRWELL MOVEMENT

## STEP 4: Advance Continues to Next Landing

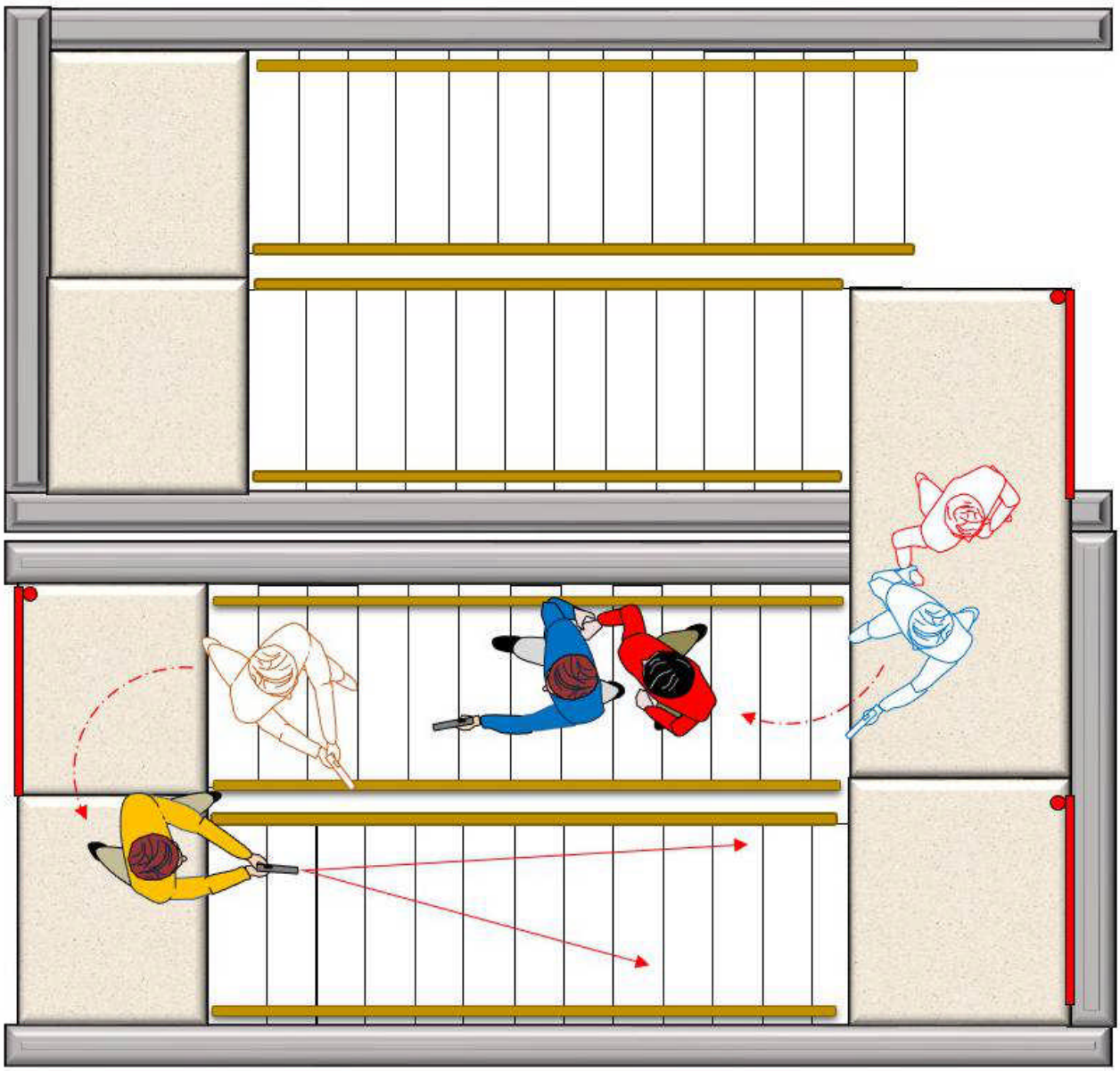
In this example, the advance turns the corner and continues up the stairs, covering in the direction of movement while the OIC covers the access point on the landing. The in a two-person detail the OIC must also maintain rear security by looking over the shoulder every few steps as needed.



# TWO-PERSON: STAIRWELL MOVEMENT

## STEP 5: Advance Clears Towards the Exit Point

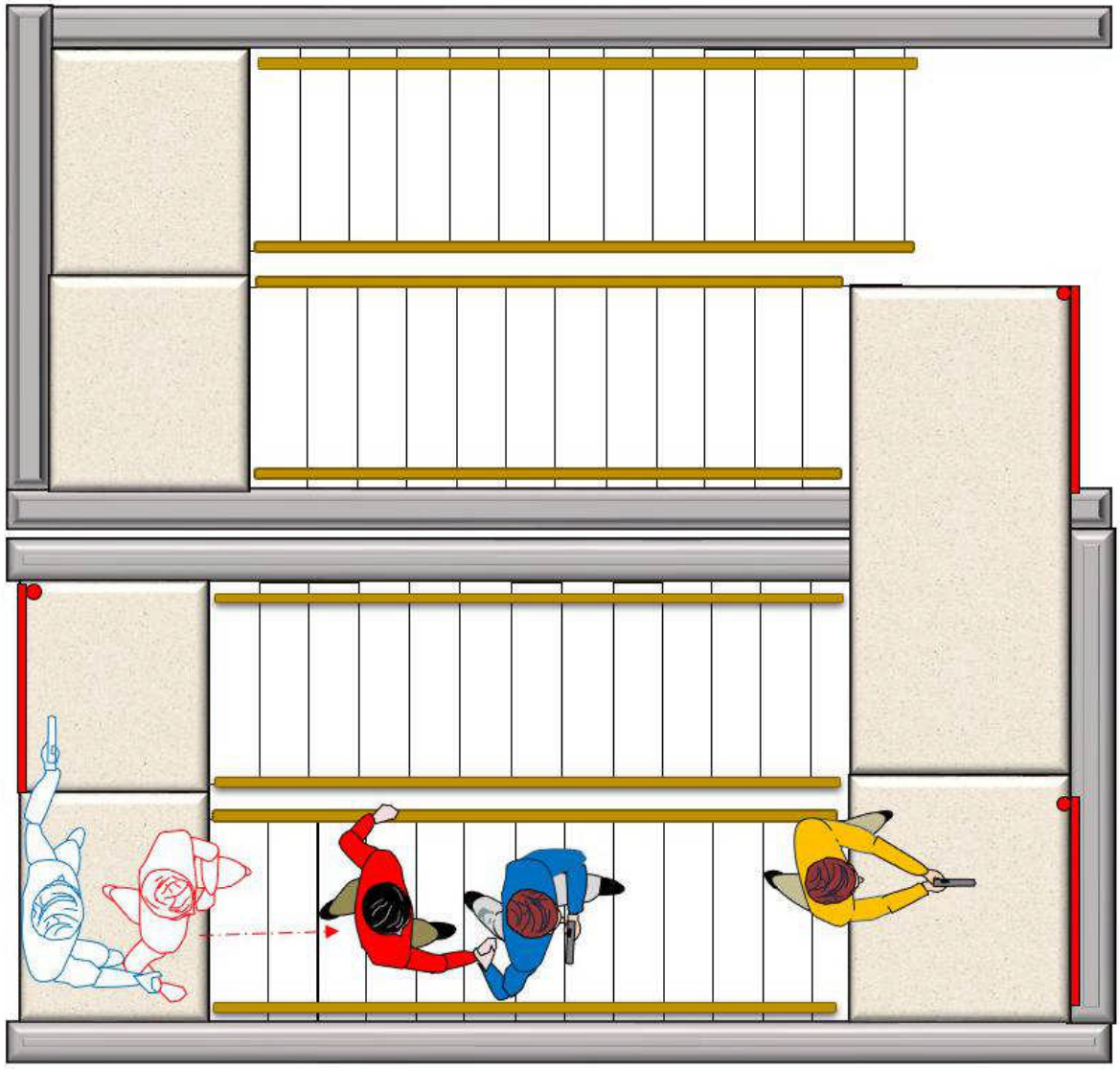
The advance continues to clear in the direction of movement and turns towards the stairwell exit point as the OIC continues to assist by covering the door on the landing. When approaching the exit point, the advance should move slightly further ahead of the VIP and take care to confirm that the detail is exiting on the desired floor prior to exiting the stairwell.



# TWO-PERSON: STAIRWELL MOVEMENT

## STEP 6: Detail Exits the Stairwell

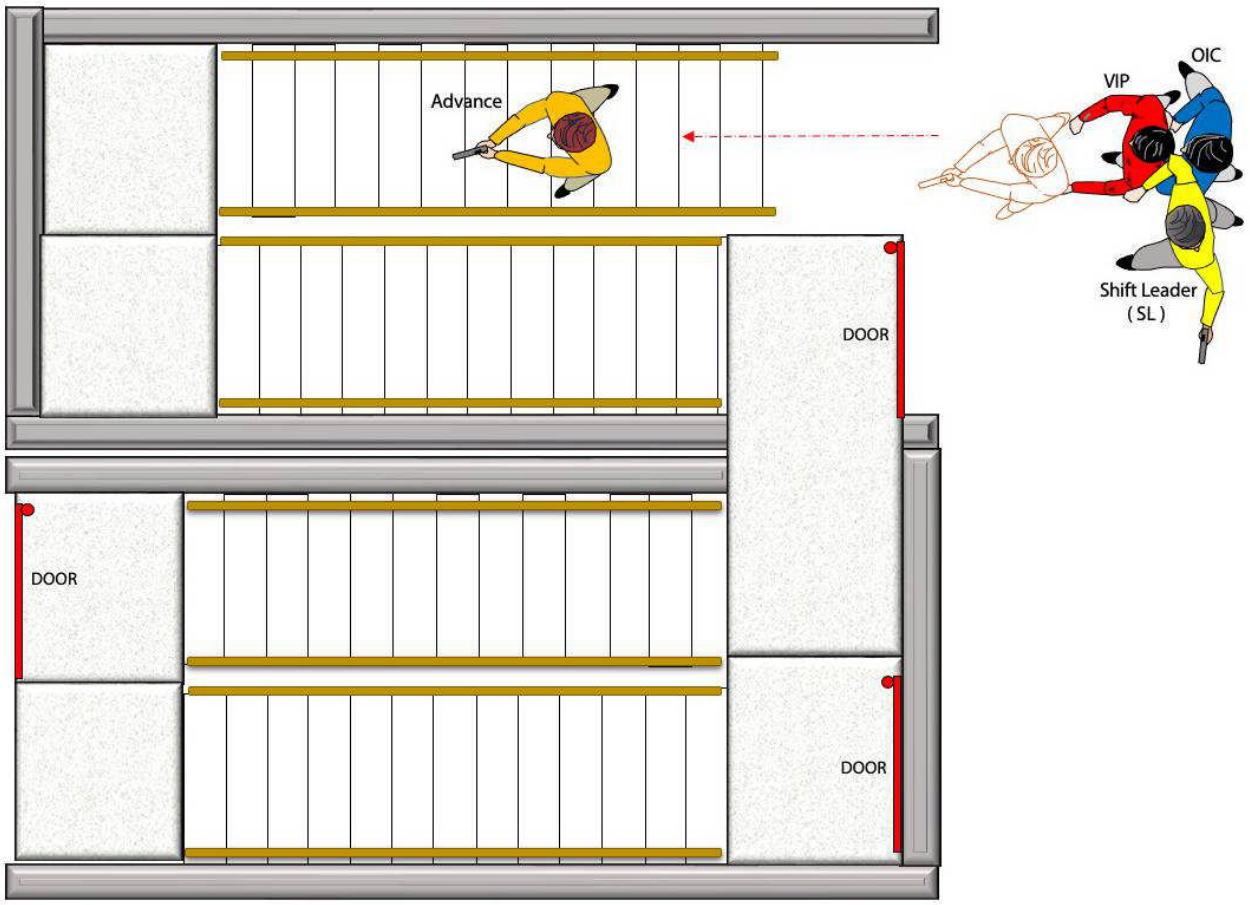
Upon reaching the exit point door, the advance should clear outside of it as much as possible while the OIC and VIP wait slightly back. If there is a window on the door, the advance might want to look through the window at different angles to partially clear outside the stairwell. When ready, the advance will open the door and clear whatever is on the opposite side (room or hallway etc.) using any combination of clearing techniques. If the primary threat is to the front, the VIP will stay back and wait to be called forward. However, if there are threats in pursuit, the OIC and VIP might want to follow right behind the advance to get out of the stairwell.



# THREE-PERSON: STAIRWELL MOVEMENT

## STEP 1: Advance Moves Ahead into the Stairwell

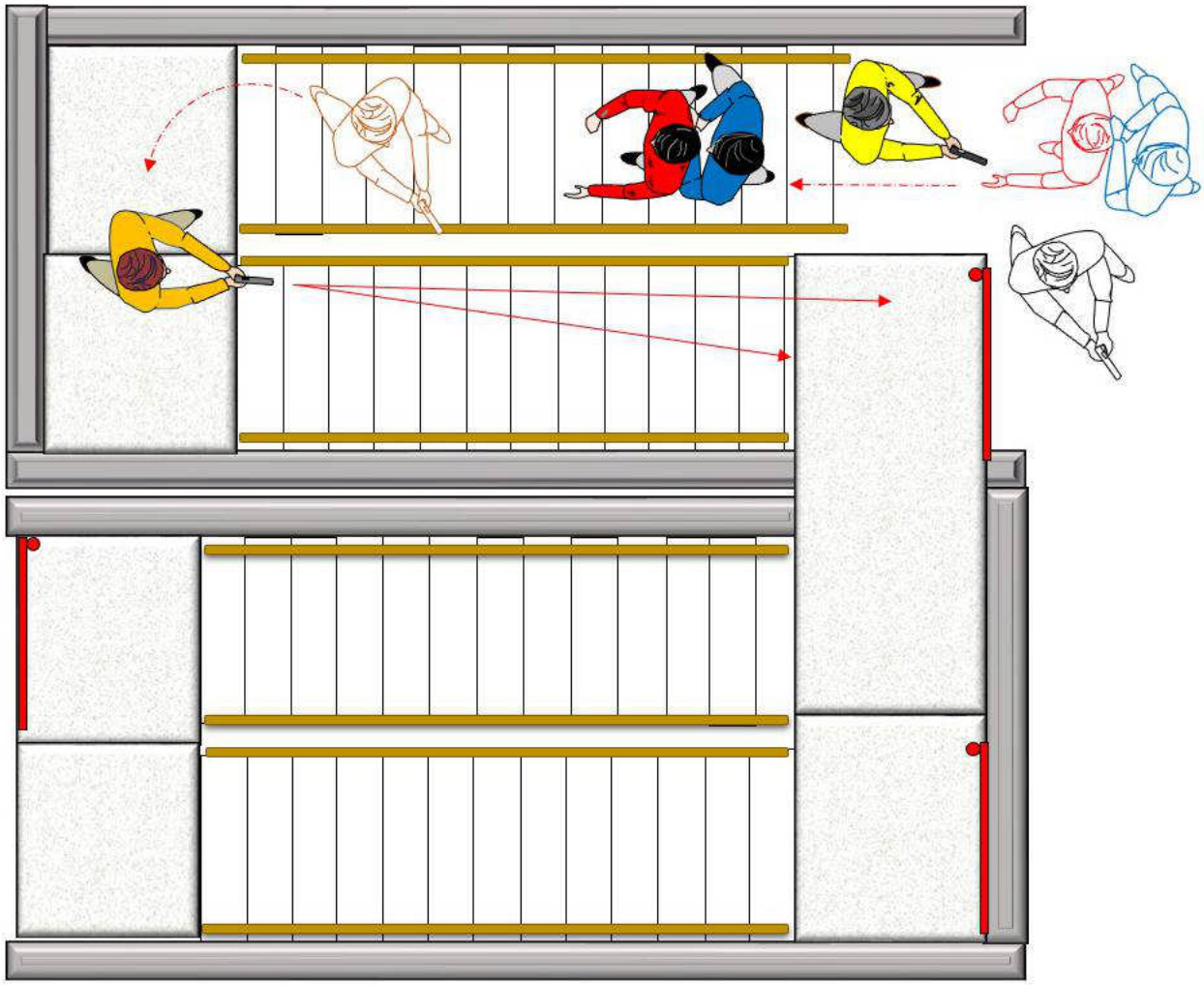
The example below applies to moving both up and down a stairwell. First, the advance should move ahead into the stairwell, keeping some distance from the rest of the detail. The advance will adjust his/her angle to best cover the areas of greatest threat. This generally means moving close to the outside of the stairwell and rotating inward while moving to see the next landing as soon as possible. The OIC should follow behind, maintaining positive control of the VIP. The SL will position to provide additional protection and body coverage for the VIP. In the example below, the SL assumes a flank security position. It is also possible for the SL to move forward and assist the advance in clearing the stairwell.



# THREE-PERSON: STAIRWELL MOVEMENT

## STEP 2: Advance Clears the First Landing

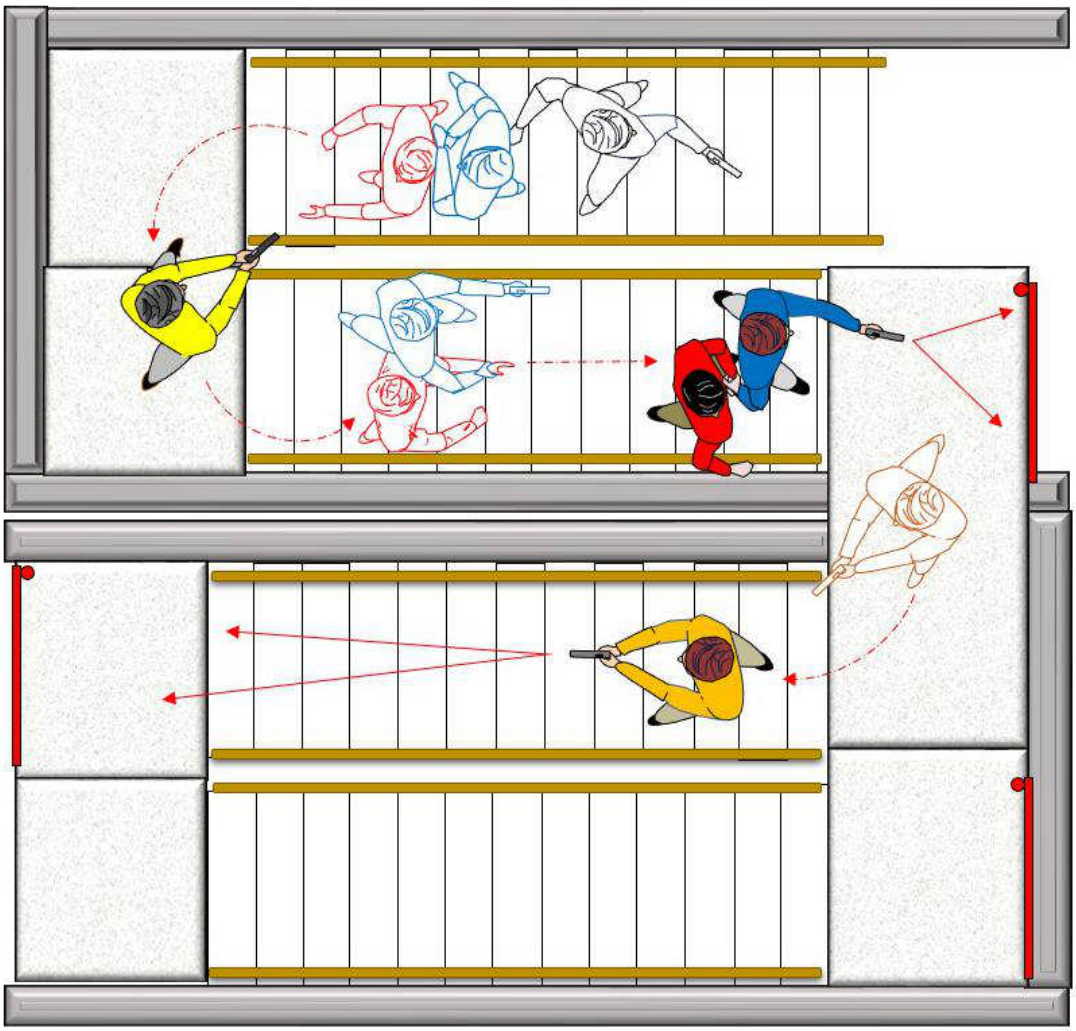
As the advance moves forward in the lead, he/she will continue to rotate inward towards the next stairwell landing (either up or down). It is important that the advance walk carefully and not walk backwards to avoid tripping on the stairs. Once the advance reaches the first landing, he/she should be facing directly up/down the stairs towards the next landing with good visibility up/down the shaft of the stairwell. The OIC and VIP will follow behind at a safe distance, maintaining visual contact with the advance.



# THREE-PERSON: STAIRWELL MOVEMENT

## STEP 3: Advance Clears the Second Landing

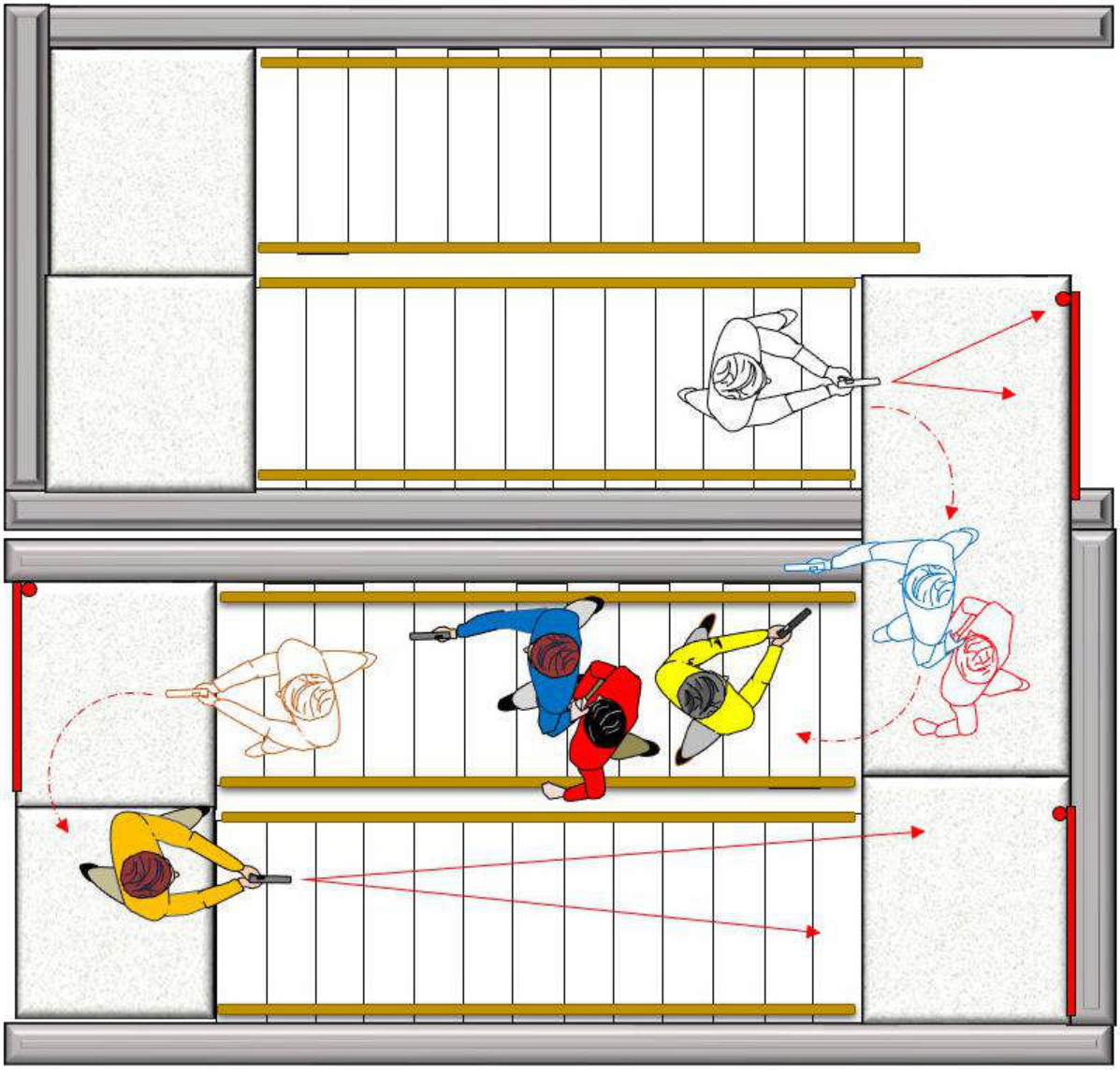
In this example, the second landing of the stairwell has a door or access point to a floor in the building. When encountering a landing with an access point, the advance has two different angles or danger areas he/she must cover. The advance can either cover the access point on the landing or continue to cover in the direction of movement, up or down the stairs. In the example below, the advance is leading the formation alone so he/she will have to quickly check both danger areas but then pick one of the two to focus on. In some cases, it is possible for the SL to push forward which allows one detail member to cover in the direction of movement while the other covers the access point. In the example, the SL decides to maintain rear security which means that the OIC will have to help the advance cover the multiple danger areas while moving up the stairs.



# THREE-PERSON: STAIRWELL MOVEMENT

## STEP 4: Advance Clears the Next Landing

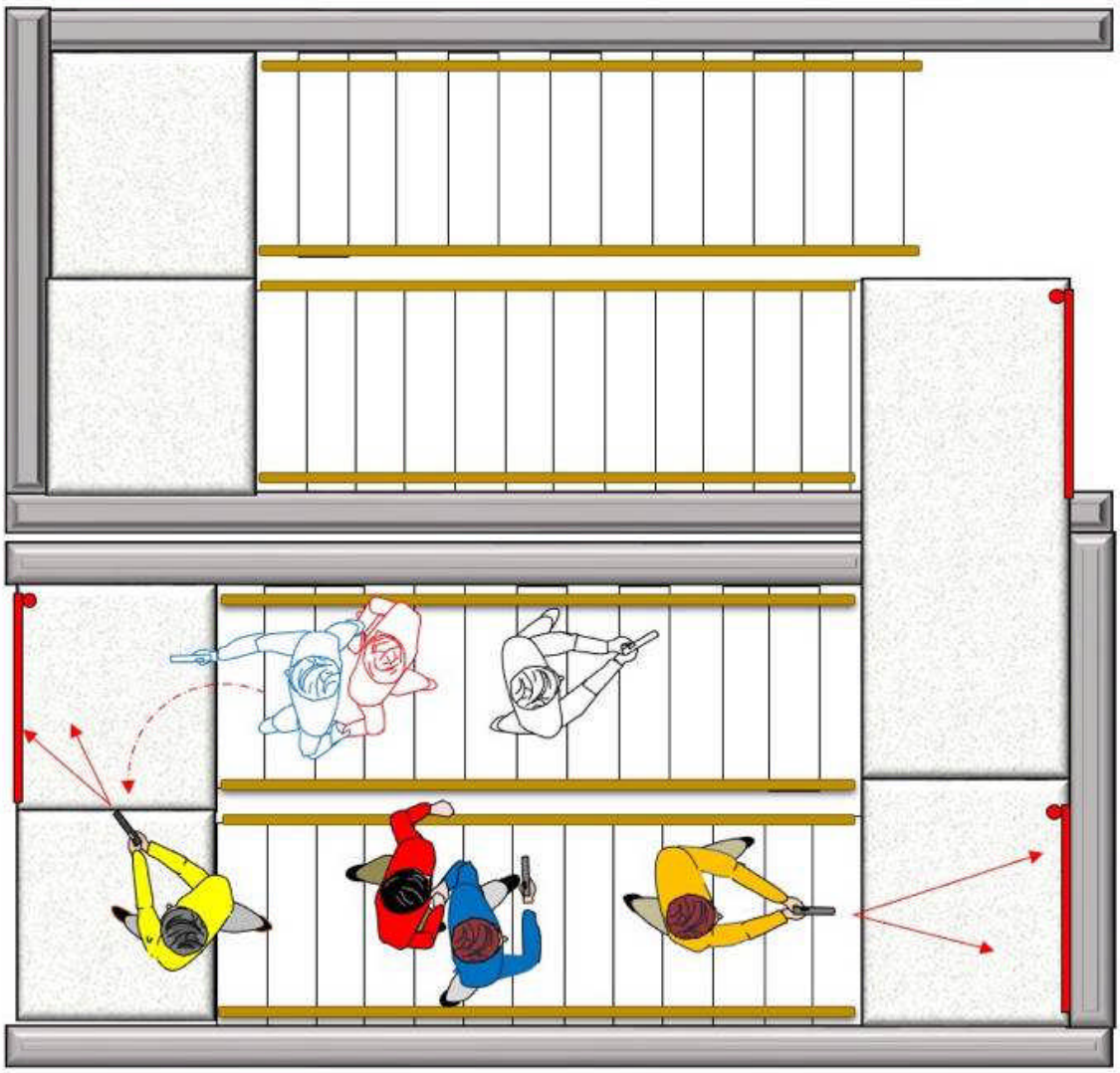
As the detail continues to move up the stairwell, the advance clears the next landing while the SL provides rear security. In most stairwells, access points appear on every-other landing, meaning that if a landing has an access point, the next landing generally will not. However, keep in mind that in some buildings the access points might not follow this pattern and you may encounter an access point, or even an open doorway unexpectedly as you turn a corner like in the example below. Hence, the advance must remain alert to cover all danger areas as much as possible.



# THREE-PERSON: STAIRWELL MOVEMENT

## STEP 5: Advance Clears Ahead and the Detail Exits

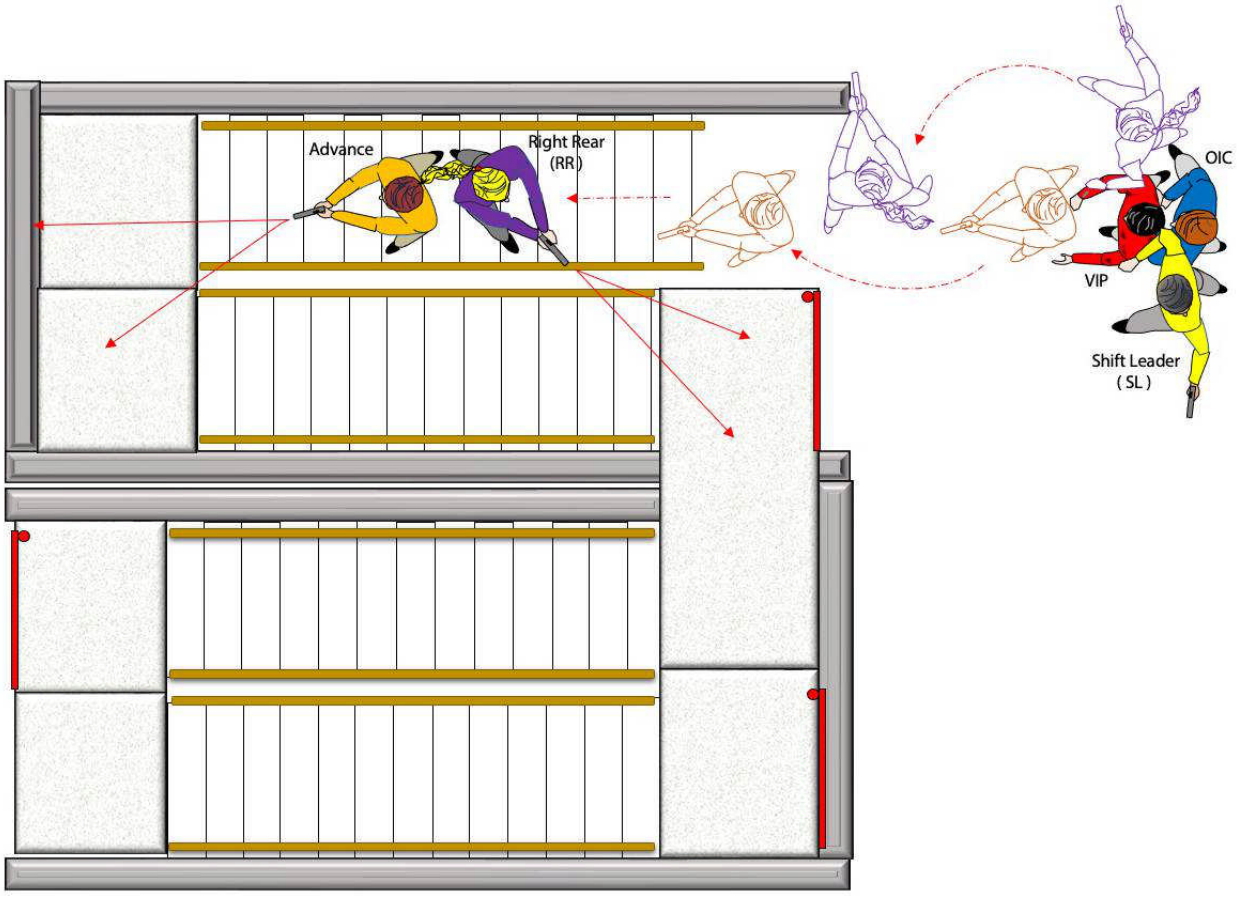
The advance continues to clear in the direction of movement and turns towards the stairwell exit point as the SL provides rear security. When approaching the exit point, the advance should move slightly further ahead of the VIP and take care to confirm that the detail is exiting on the desired floor prior to exiting the stairwell. After using any windows or openings to his/her advantage, the advance will open the door and clear whatever is on the opposite side using any combination of clearing techniques. If the primary threat is to the front, the rest of the detail will stay back and wait to be called forward. However, if there are threats in pursuit, the detail might want to follow right behind the advance to get out of the stairwell.



# FOUR-PERSON: STAIRWELL MOVEMENT

## STEP 1: Advance and Right Rear Move Ahead

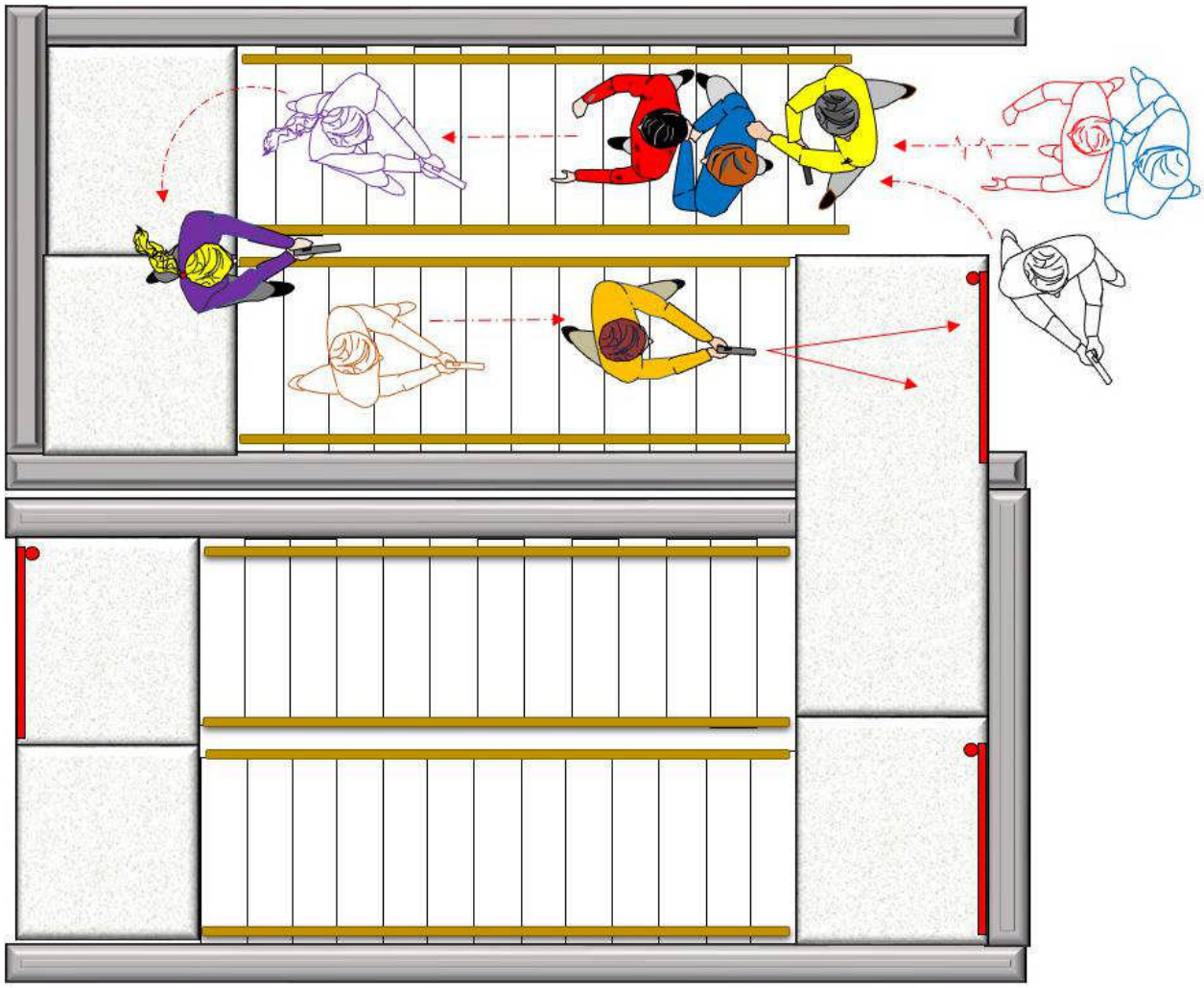
The example below applies to moving both up and down a stairwell. First, the advance should move ahead into the stairwell, keeping some distance from the rest of the detail. The Right Rear (RR) will break away from the protective ring and join the advance in the lead. The RR can focus on covering the next landing and rear while the advance focuses to the front. OIC should follow behind, maintaining positive control of the VIP. The SL will position to provide additional protection and body coverage for the VIP. In the example below, the SL assumes a flank security position.



# FOUR-PERSON: STAIRWELL MOVEMENT

## STEP 2: Advance and Right Rear Clear the First Landing

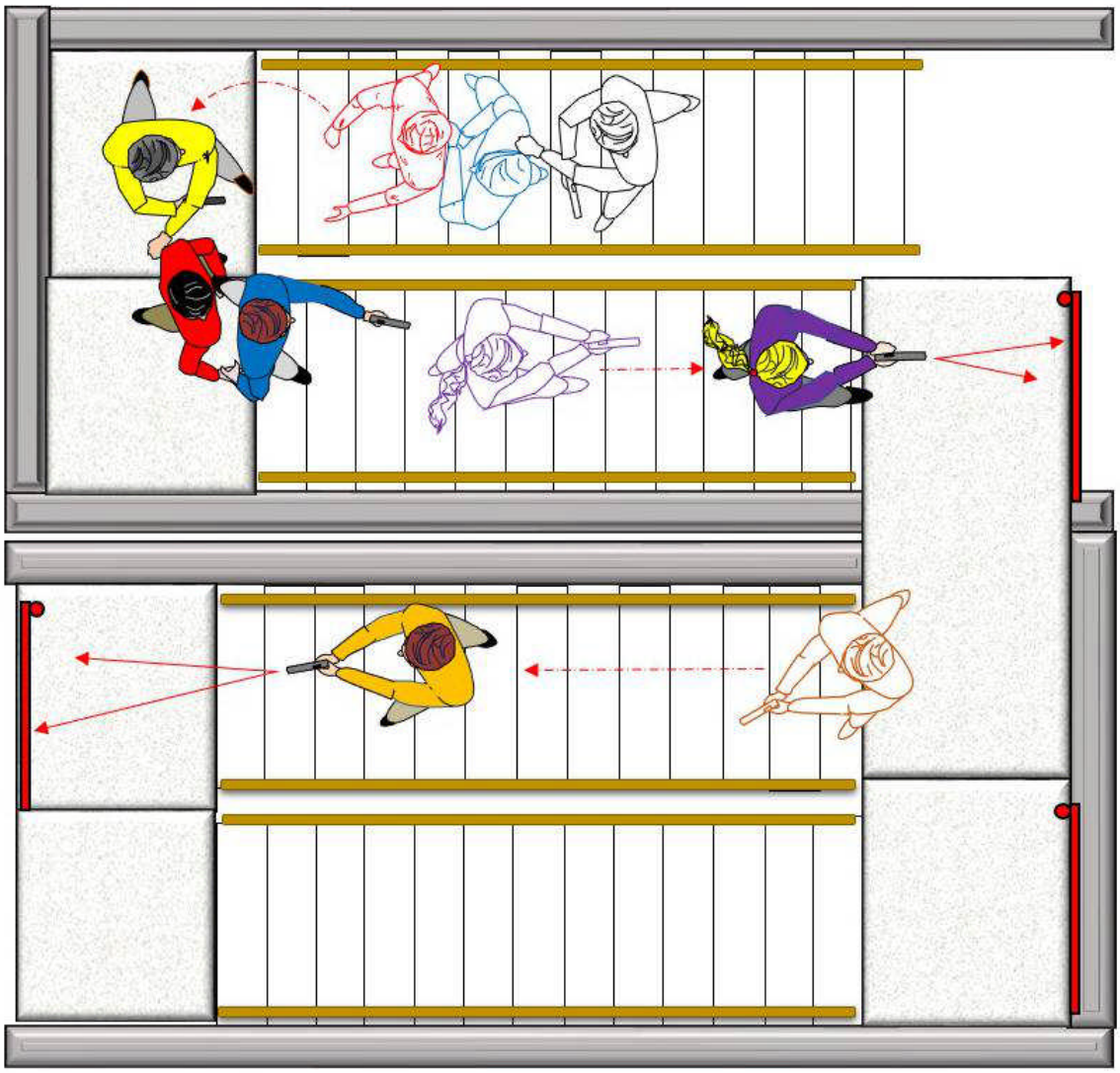
As the advance and RR move forward in the lead, they will continue to rotate inward towards the next stairwell landing (either up or down). As a two-person element, the advance and RR can focus on covering different angles and danger areas as needed. One can focus attention up/down the stairs while the other rotates to cover vulnerabilities to the flank or from the stairwell shaft. The advance can also push farther forward if appropriate to extend an additional safety buffer for the VIP. It is important that the advance walk carefully and not walk backwards to avoid tripping on the stairs. However, the closer the advance and RR can remain together the more they can mutually support each other and reduce risk.



# FOUR-PERSON: STAIRWELL MOVEMENT

## STEP 3: Advance and RR Clear the Second Landing

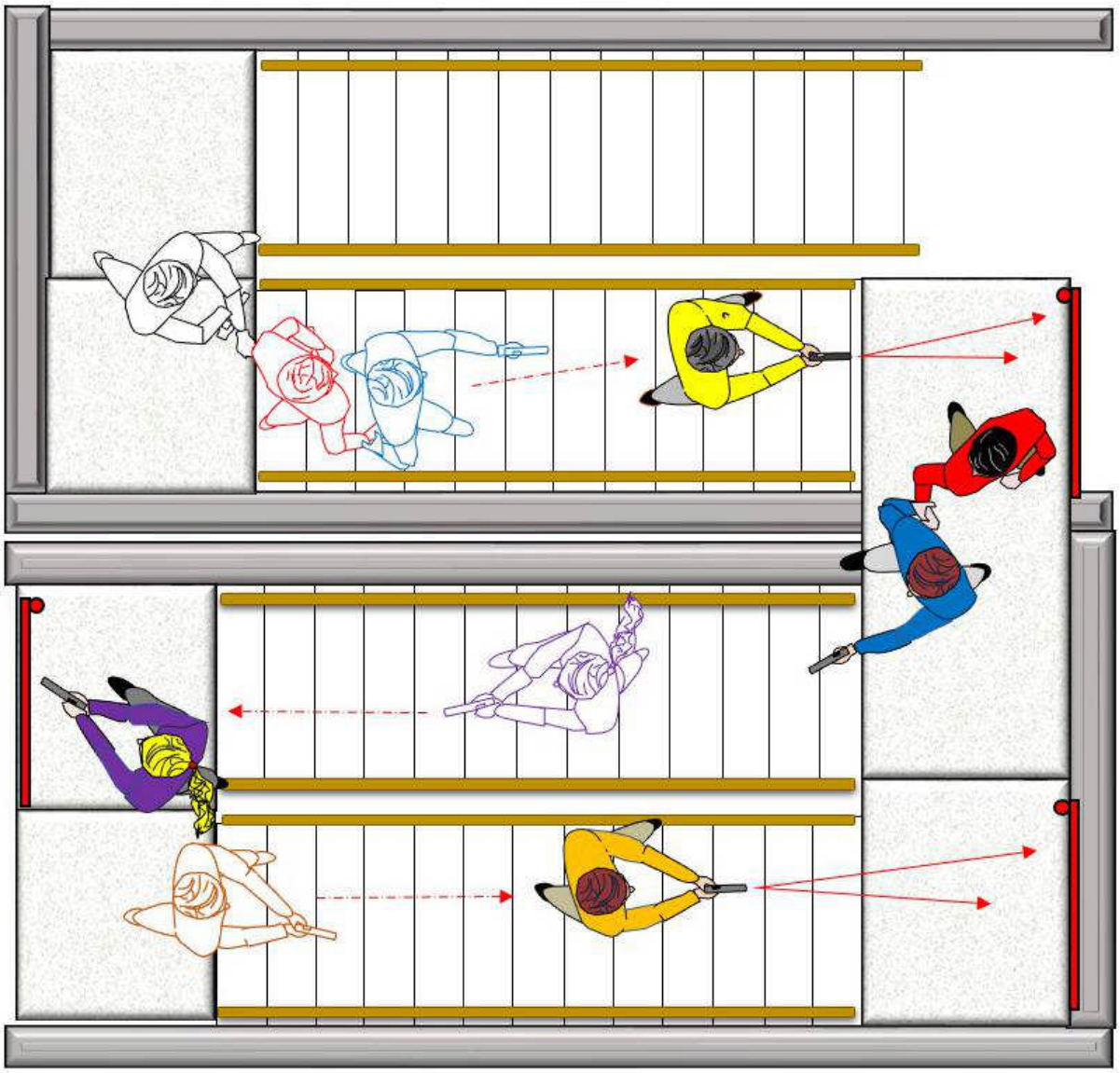
In this example, the second landing of the stairwell has a door or access point to a floor in the building. In this example, with the advance and RR in the lead, the advance can cover in the direction of movement while the RR covers the access point. The SL maintains rear security while the OIC focuses on controlling the VIP. In the example below, the advance also moves up the stairs quickly and aggressively. While this can help reduce the chance that a threat will surprise the VIP in the stairwell, it increases personal risk for the advance. The advance and RR can execute the same movement/clearing technique while remaining closer together in order to be mutually supporting. However, this second option will provide less early warning for the OIC and VIP.



# FOUR-PERSON: STAIRWELL MOVEMENT

## STEP 4: Advance and RR Clear the Next Landing

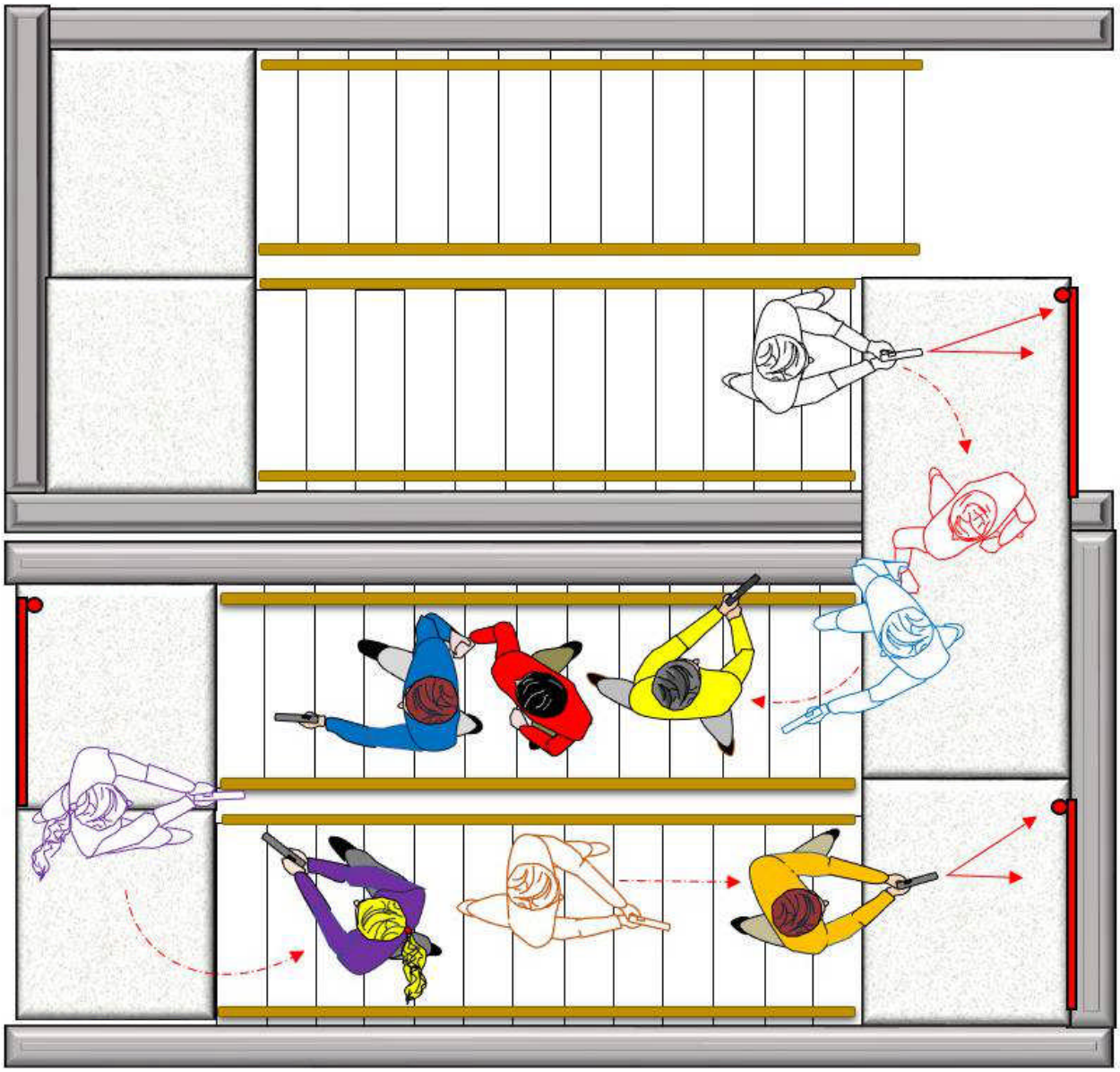
As the detail continues to move up the stairwell, the advance and RR clear the next landing while the SL provides rear security. In most stairwells, access points appear on every-other landing, meaning that if a landing has an access point, the next landing generally will not. However, keep in mind that in some buildings the access points might not follow this pattern and you may encounter an access point, or even an open doorway unexpectedly as you turn a corner like in the example below. Hence, the advance and RR must remain alert to cover all danger areas as much as possible.



# FOUR-PERSON: STAIRWELL MOVEMENT

## STEP 5: Advance Clears Towards the Exit Point

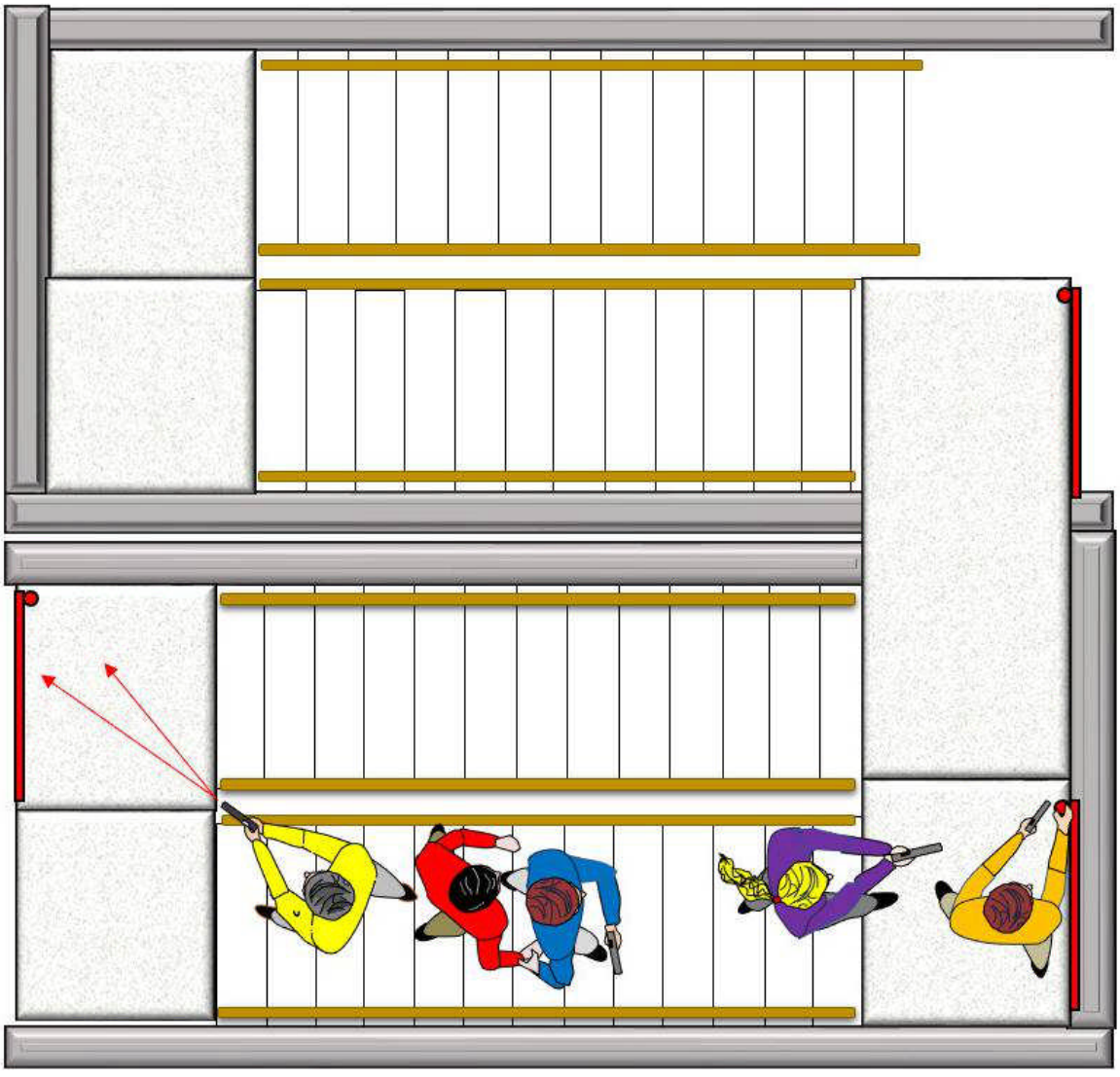
The advance continues to clear in the direction of movement and turns towards the stairwell exit point as the RR covers the doorway on the landing and the SL provides rear security. When approaching the exit point, the advance should move slightly further ahead of the VIP and take care to confirm that the detail is exiting on the desired floor prior to exiting the stairwell.



# FOUR-PERSON: STAIRWELL MOVEMENT

## STEP 6: Detail Exits the Stairwell

With both the advance and RR in the lead of the formation, the detail has more clearing options when exiting the stairwell. One detail member can open the door while the other clears. If there is a window or opening on the door the detail members can also conduct a sweep or cross-coverage prior to opening the door. When ready, the detail members will clear whatever is on the opposite side (room or hallway etc.) using any combination of clearing techniques. If the primary threat is to the front, the rest of the detail will stay back and wait to be called forward. However, if there are threats in pursuit, the detail might want to follow right behind the advance and RR to get out of the stairwell.



# EXAMPLE SCENARIOS
# Multiple-Room Configurations

The following section gives two, more detailed examples of how a two-person and four-person detail might move through multiple rooms containing furniture and obstacles. These scenarios do not provide the single "right answer" for how to clear a specific configuration. Rather they were designed to be illustrative of more general concepts that apply to clearing multiple rooms. The two scenarios also do not demonstrate all of the various concepts and principles of PRCT but instead focus on principles that are likely to apply to a wide variety of situations a detail might encounter.

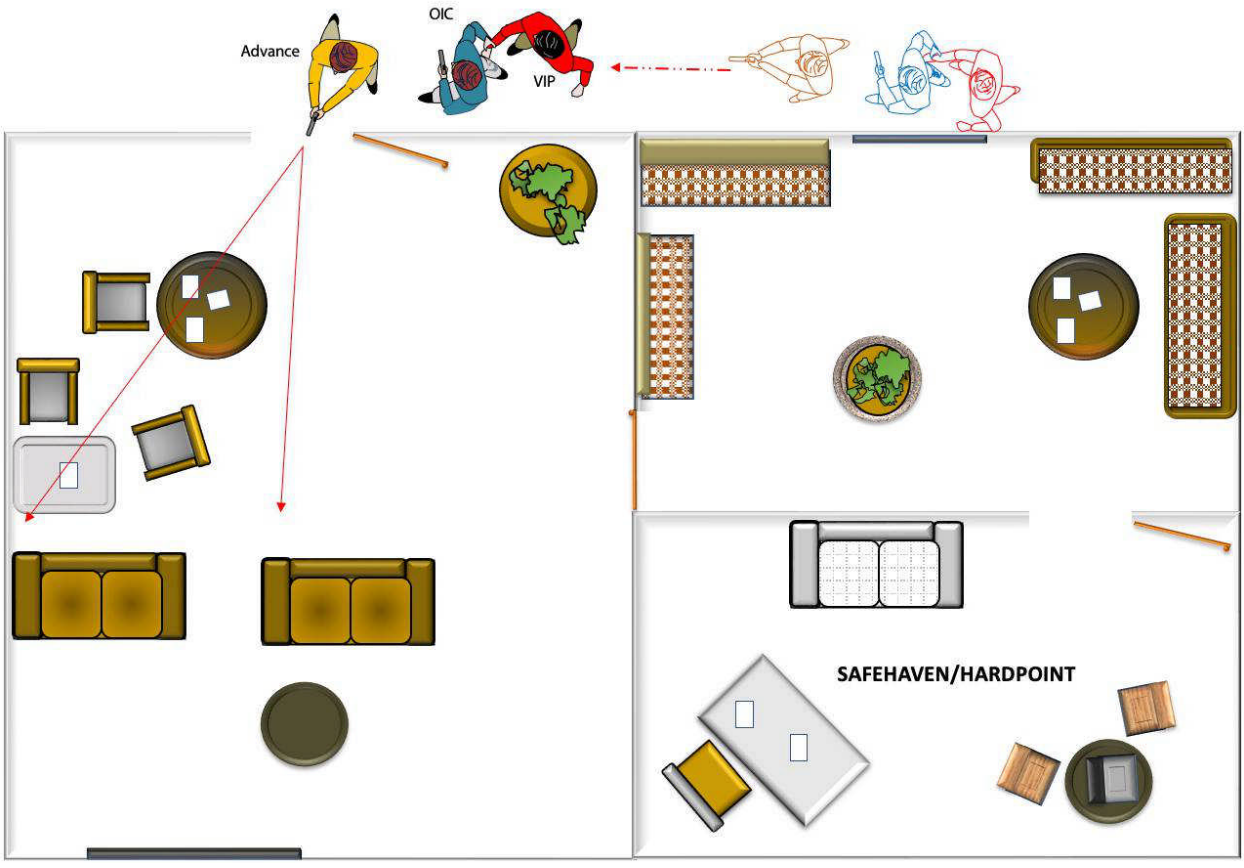
The main purpose of the two scenarios is to demonstrate how a detail might combine the various clearing techniques and principles explained throughout this book and in other Special Tactics books in a real-world operation. Using these scenarios as an example, the reader should go on to brainstorm additional scenarios and think through the best way to clear various room and hallway configurations with different sized details and threat configurations. The examples cover three-room and four-room configurations but ideally protective details should apply the same principles to thinking through how to clear much larger structures.

A particularly useful tool for this type of training is the table-top board. It is possible to create table-top training boards for virtually no cost using cardboard, a marker and pocket change. With more time and resources, some units create magnetic boards with magnetic pieces and dry-erase capability for note taking etc. A thin piece of colored string or chord can also be useful to demonstrate specific angles during planning and discussion. The table-top board can allow a detail or team to run through and talk through many scenarios involving multiple rooms, hallways and stairwells while discussing different clearing options based on threats and contingencies.

# SCENARIOS: TWO-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 1: Advance Leads Formation

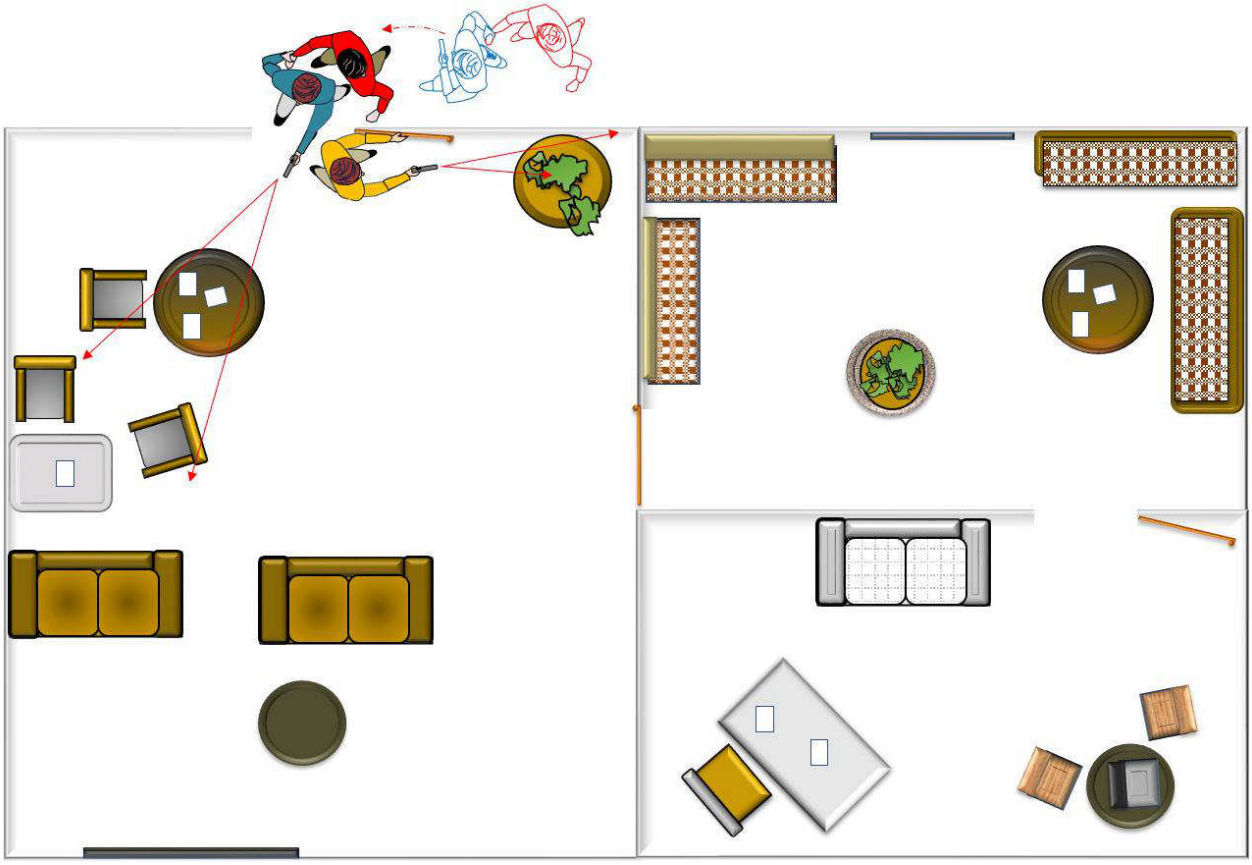
In this example, a two-person detail needs to enter a room from the exterior or hallway and move through multiple rooms with furniture in order to get the VIP to a safehaven. Initially, the primary threat is to the rear which will lead the detail to make an immediate entry, the OIC and VIP following directly into the room behind the advance. The first door is open so the advance swings out to clear the center of the room before crossing the threshold.



# SCENARIOS: TWO-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 2: Detail Clears the Corners

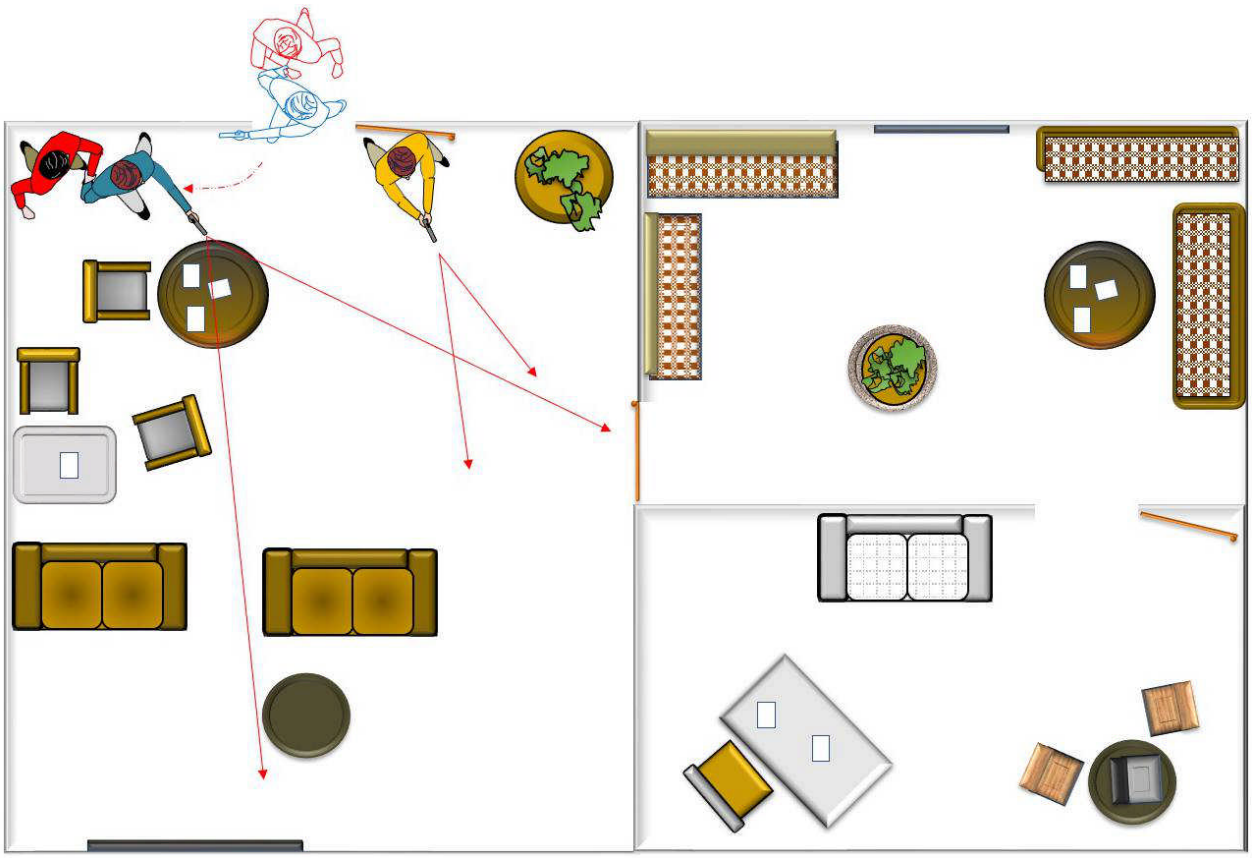
The advance enters the room and since the door opens inward, the advance moves in the direction of the door to control it while clearing the corner. The OIC leads the VIP using a one-handed-pull technique and clears the other corner as soon as possible to cover the advance's back.



# SCENARIOS: TWO-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 3: Detail Moves to Initial Domination Points

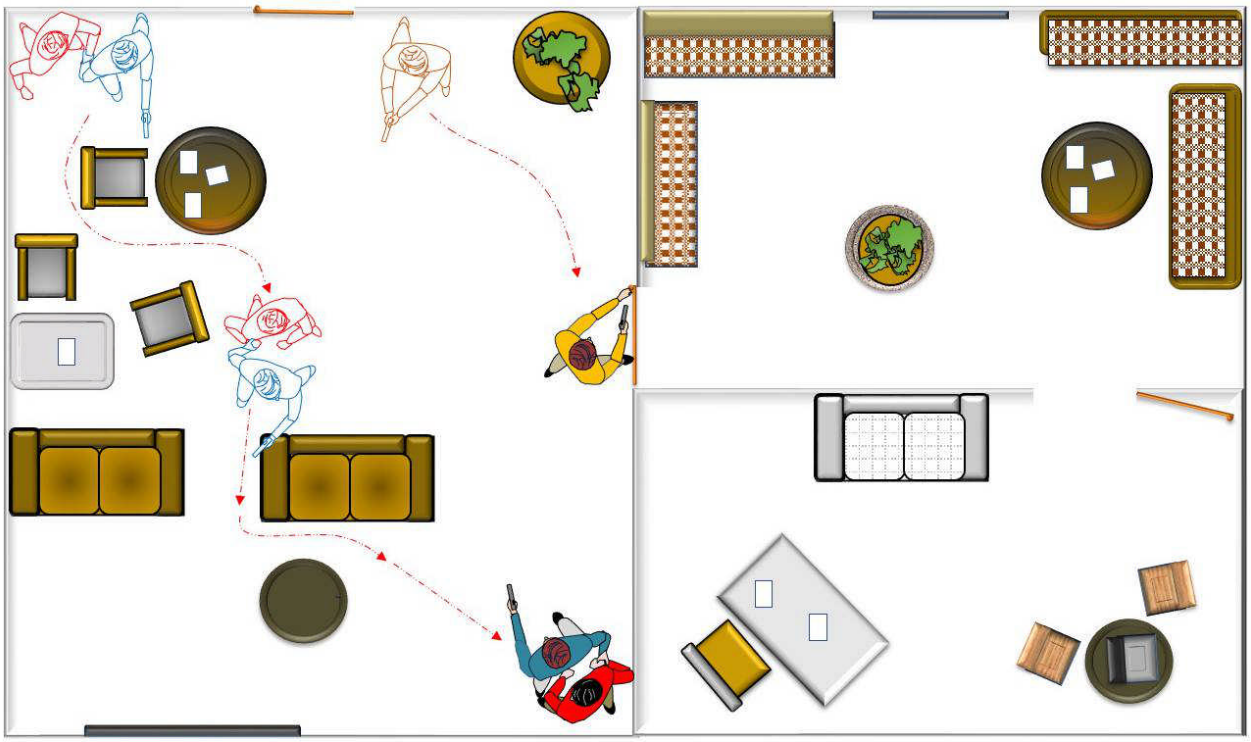
After clearing both corners the advance will continue to control the door and scan the rest of the room, sweeping inward. If the advance thinks there could be someone behind the door, he/she can quickly turn to check behind it. The advance should also close the door behind the detail and lock it if possible. After clearing the opposite corner, the OIC will bring the VIP into the corner and provide as much body coverage as possible while scanning the rest of the room from outside to in.



# SCENARIOS: TWO-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 4: Detail Repositions in the Room

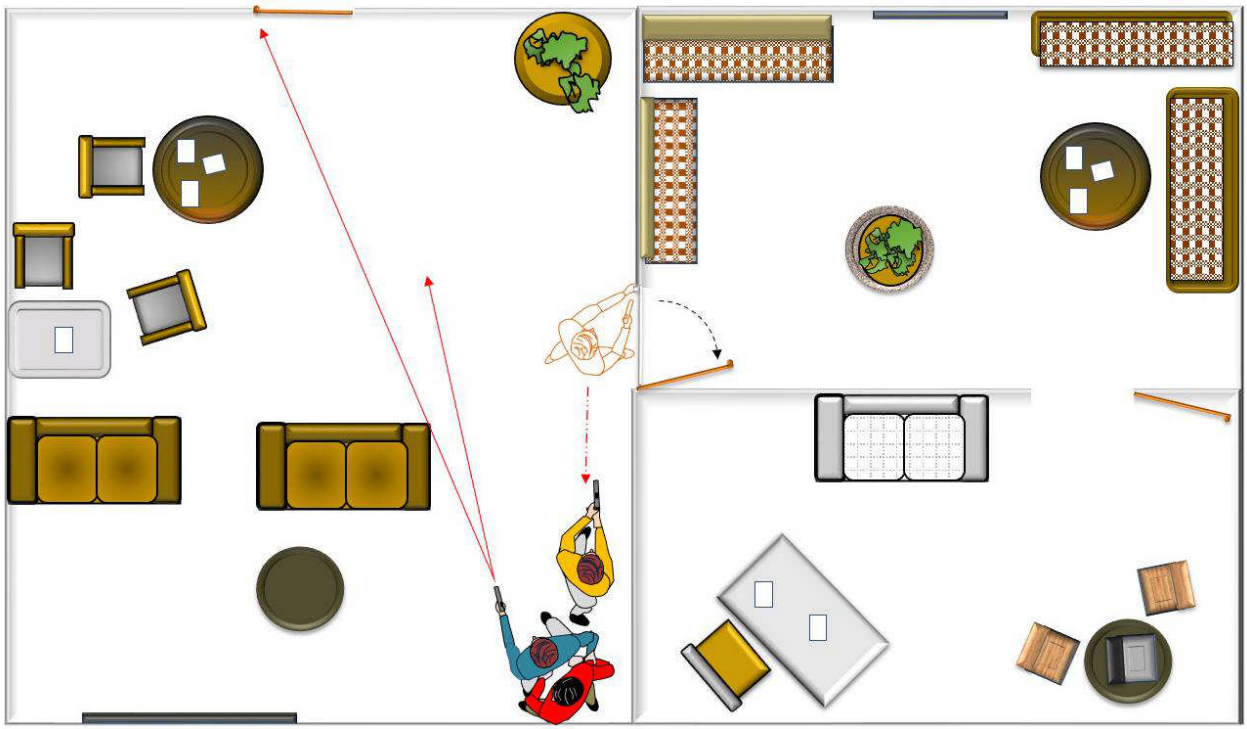
After establishing initial domination points, the detail identifies furniture and danger areas within the room behind which a threat might be hiding. The advance also identifies a closed door to his/her left. The advance moves first towards the door while swinging out to see behind furniture in the room. The advance positions to open the door and clear the next room. The OIC waits for the advance to determine there are no threats hiding behind furniture and then decides to move the VIP to a new location in the room's opposite corner. The new location gets the VIP farther away from both doors in the room and offers good protection should someone fire through the door the advance is about to clear. Also notice that while moving, the OIC keeps the VIP close to furniture in the room that might provide some degree of cover/concealment should threats emerge. If the detail should come under fire unexpectedly, the OIC can drop the VIP down behind a chair, table, or sofa to provide some degree of protection.



# SCENARIOS: TWO-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 5: Advance Opens the Door and Prepares to Clear

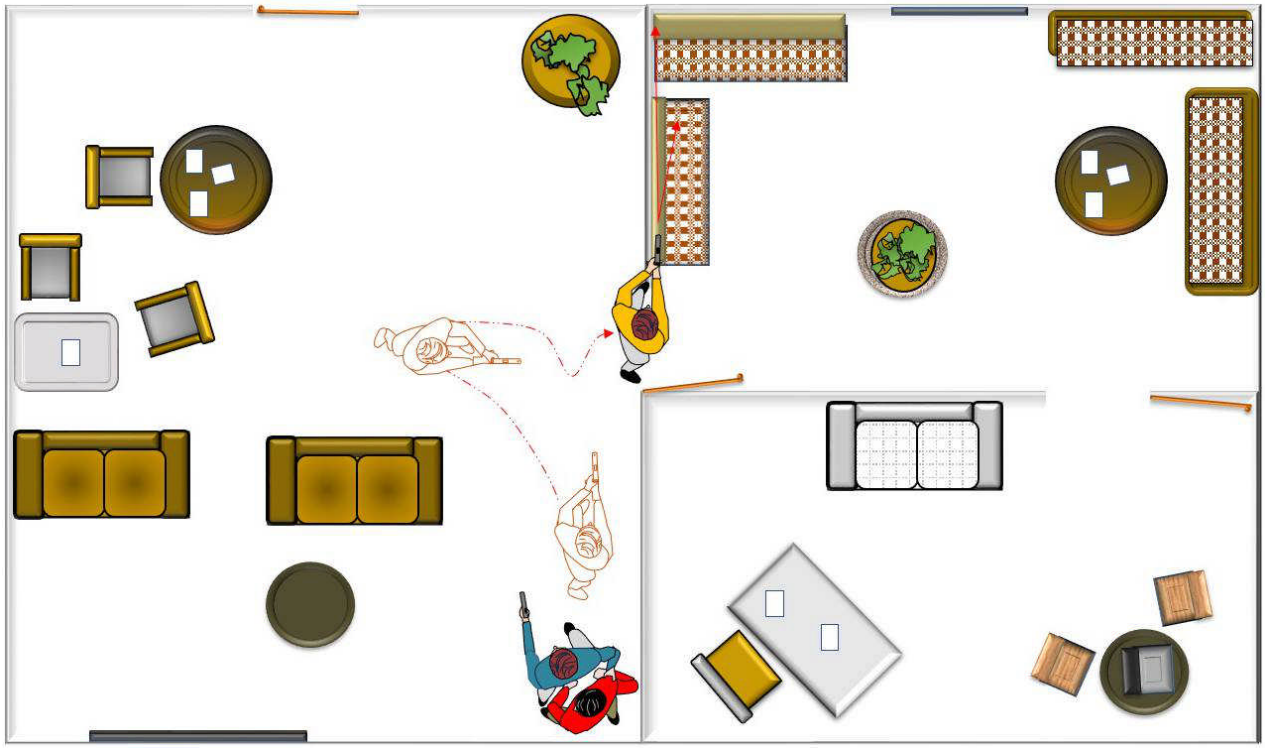
The advance opens the door and moves back quickly, waiting to see if threats come out of the room while watching and listening for movement. The OIC remains in place, keeping the VIP in the corner with body coverage from both the OIC and the advance. The OIC covers the entry door while the advance focuses on the open door.



# SCENARIOS: TWO-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 6: Advance Clears the Room from the Doorway

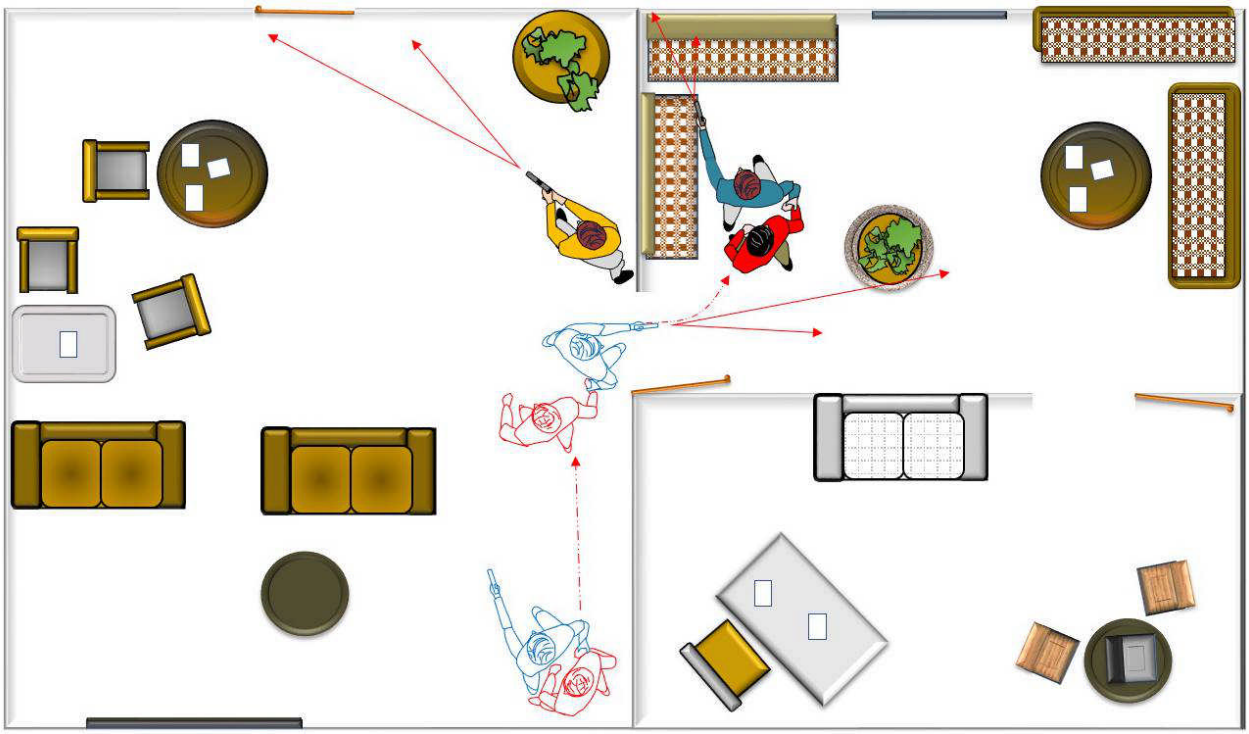
The advance begins to conduct a sweep of the room, adjusting his/her path to avoid furniture. The advance identifies the room as corner-fed halfway through the sweep and stops, not needing to clear further. At this point the advance decides to clear the room from the doorway, moving directly towards the door and clearing the unknown corner. Since it seems that the advance can see behind all furniture in the room from the doorway it is not critical for him/her to penetrate deeper at this time.



# SCENARIOS: TWO-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 7: Advance Guides OIC and VIP Into the Room

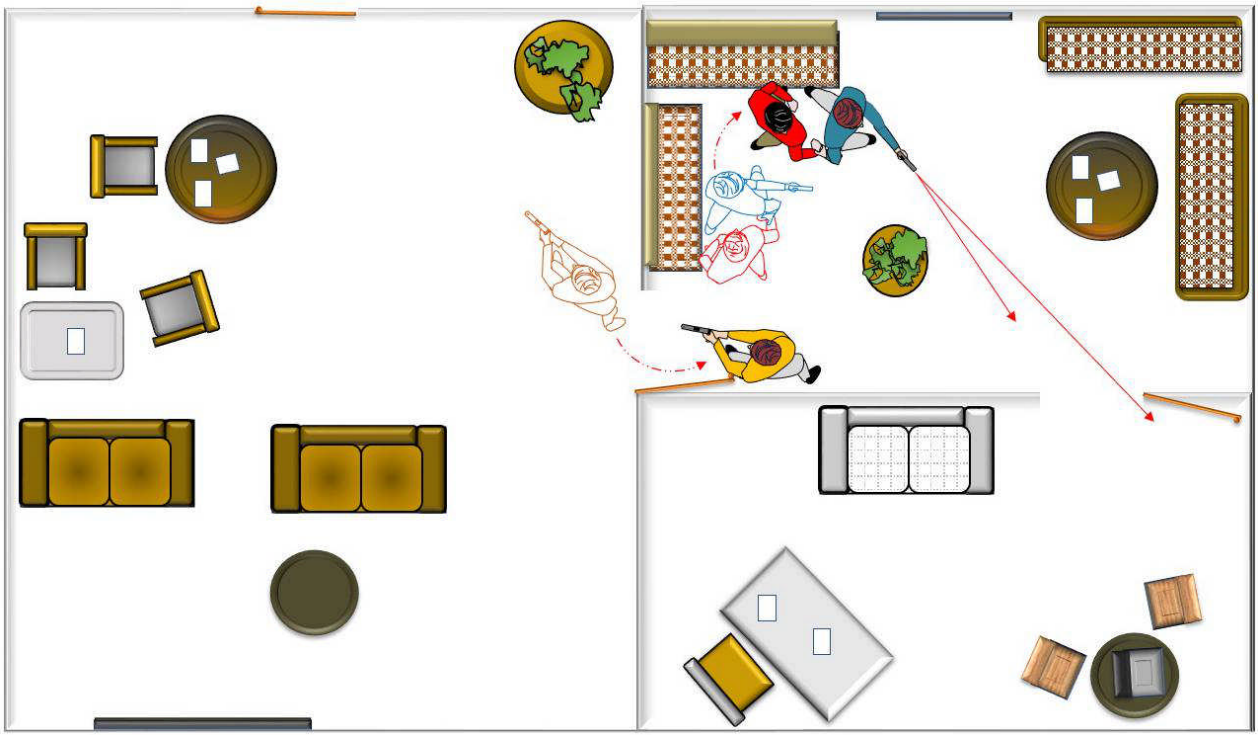
After clearing from the doorway, the advance steps out of the room and picks up security on the entry door while directing the OIC to lead the VIP into the next room. The OIC clears to the front and then pivots to re-clear the unknown corner while looking for the best place to position the VIP in the room.



# SCENARIOS: TWO-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 8: Detail Enters the Room and Identifies Danger Area

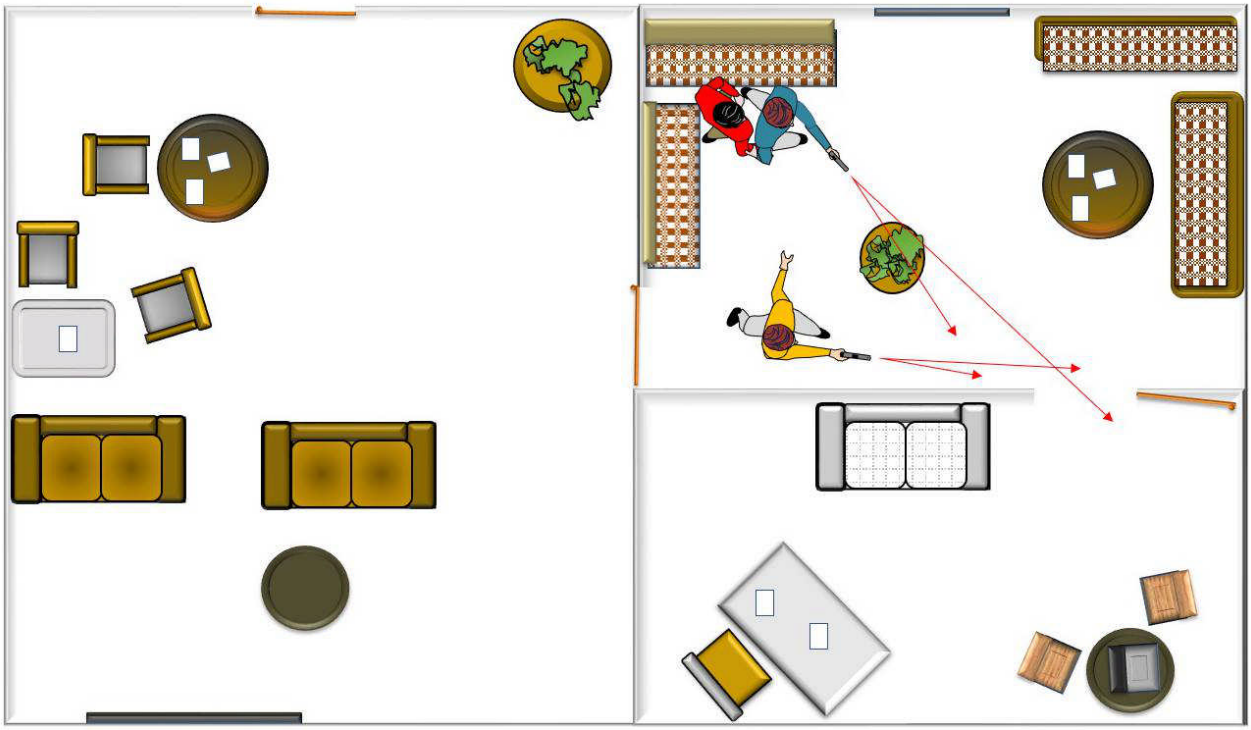
As the OIC pivots around, he/she identifies an open door across the room. The advance might have missed this during the initial clear. It is common for such things to happen, especially when the detail is moving quickly and there is a known threat to the rear. Alternatively, the advance might have identified the open door but determined there was still a greater threat to the rear. Either way, the OIC immediately shields the VIP and covers the open door as the advance steps into the room, closing and locking the door behind the detail.



# SCENARIOS: TWO-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 9: OIC Holds Position While Advance Moves Forward

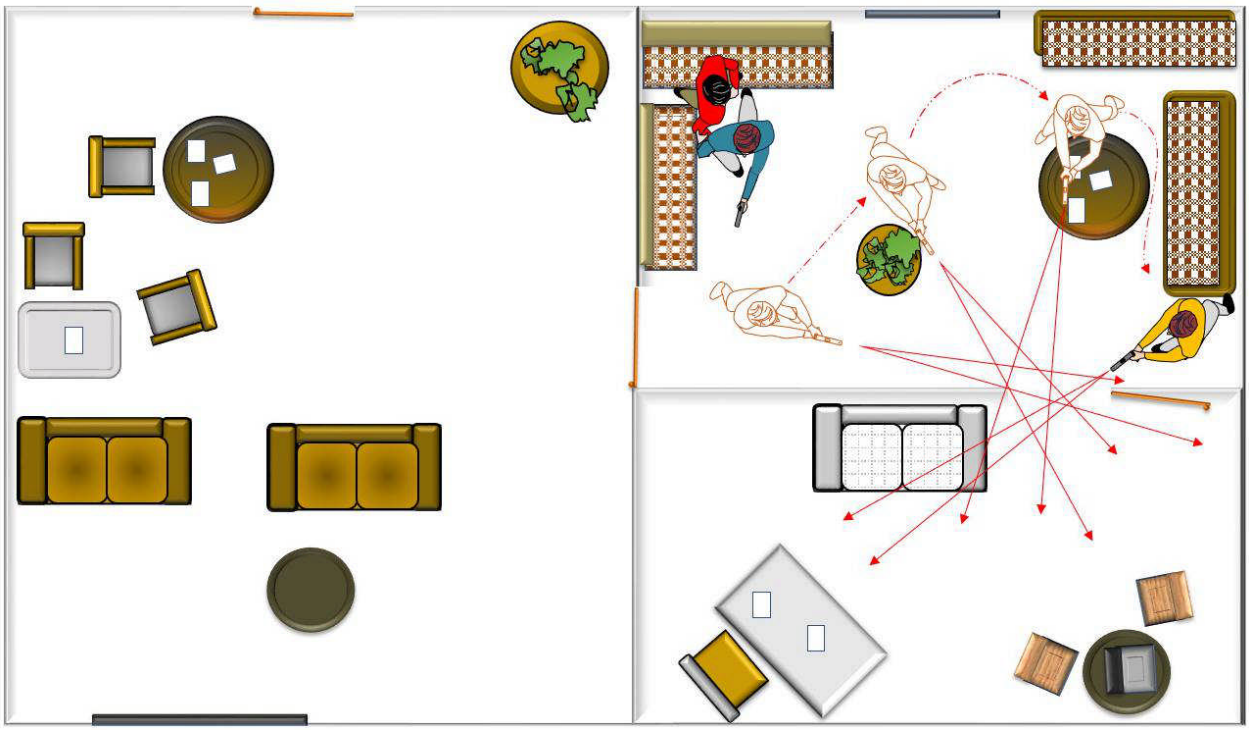
As both detail members identify the open door, the advance decides to move forward and clear the next room, signaling the OIC to stay back and protect the VIP. The OIC should provide as much body coverage for the VIP as possible and reposition as needed while the advance clears forward.



# SCENARIOS: TWO-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 10: Advance Conducts a Sweep of the Next Room

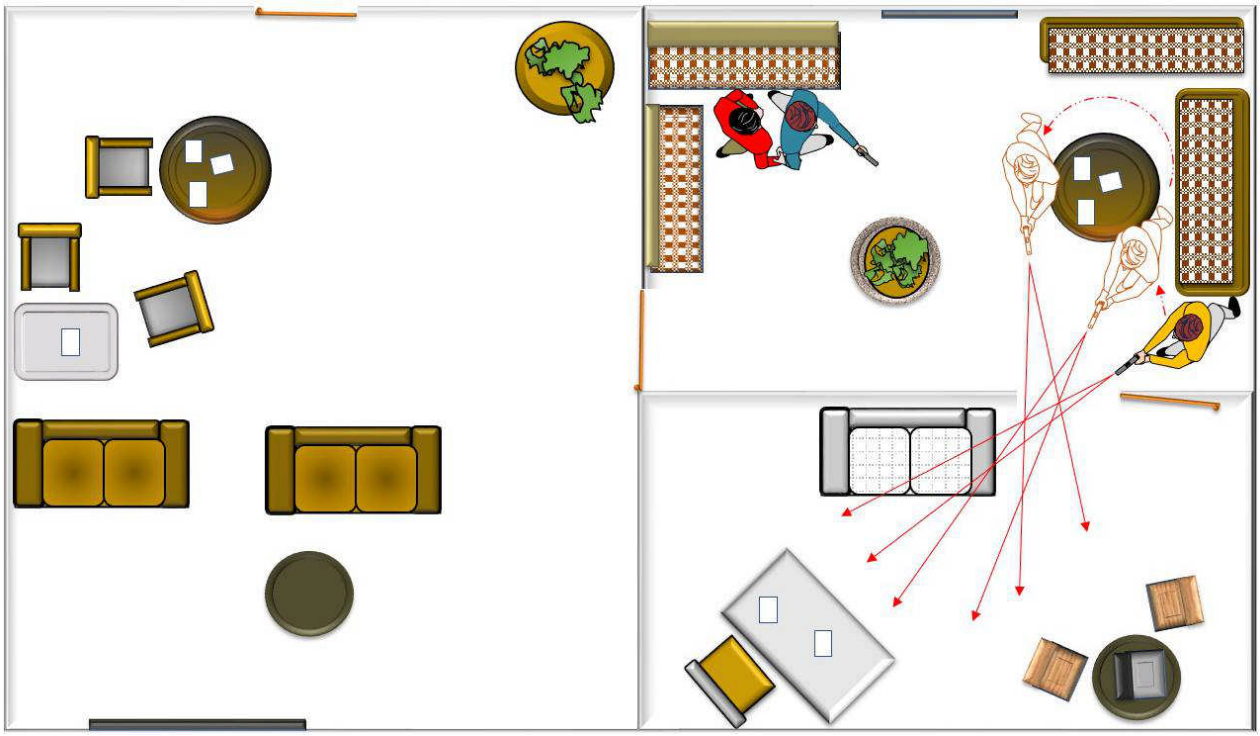
The advance decides to employ a delayed entry technique and conduct a full sweep of the room before crossing the threshold. Notice that furniture in the room forces the advance to adjust the path of his/her sweep slightly. In some cases, the advance can push furniture out of the way but keep in mind that this makes noise, can be difficult (some furniture won't move) and can either throw off a shot or balance. However, the advance chooses to move, he/she should make sure to maintain sure footing and a stable firing platform.



# SCENARIOS: TWO-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 11: Advance Conducts Half-Sweep

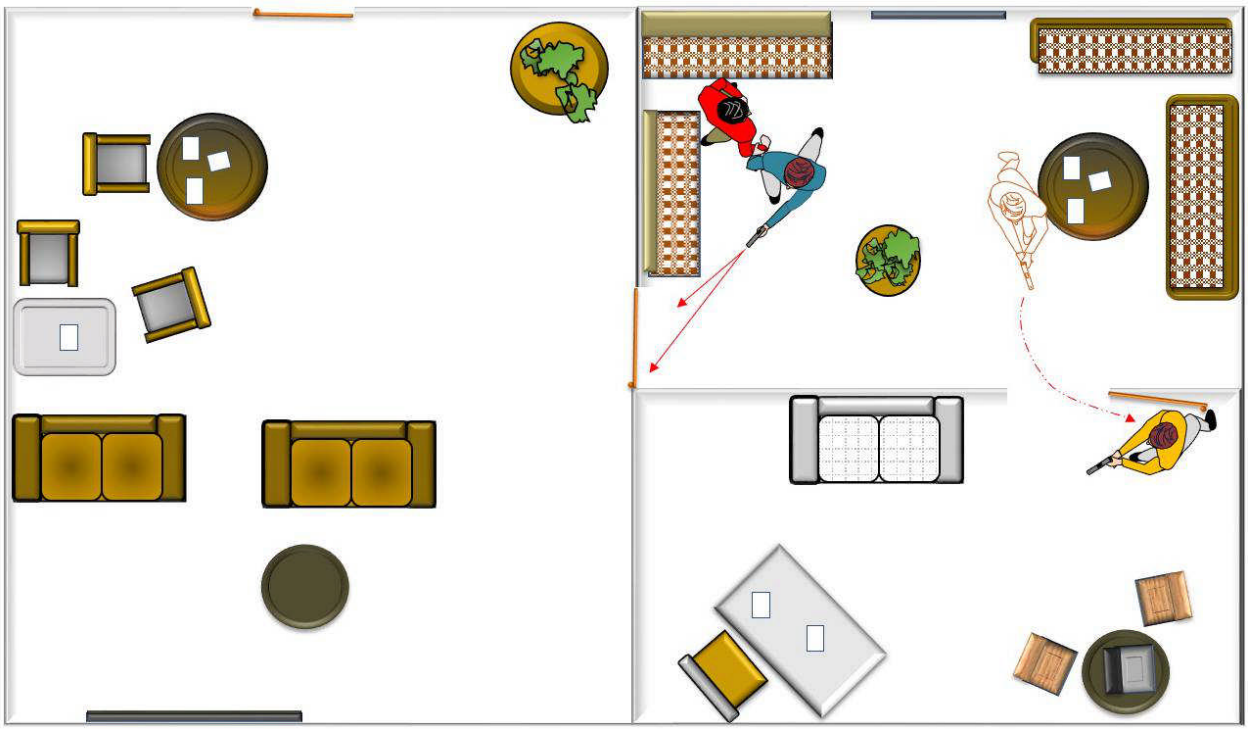
After conducting the initial sweep, the advance conducts a half-sweep, moving back in the opposite direction until he/she is directly facing the entry door. The OIC continued to maintain positive control of the VIP and cover all openings and threats within the room as needed.



# SCENARIOS: TWO-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 12: Advance Enters the Room

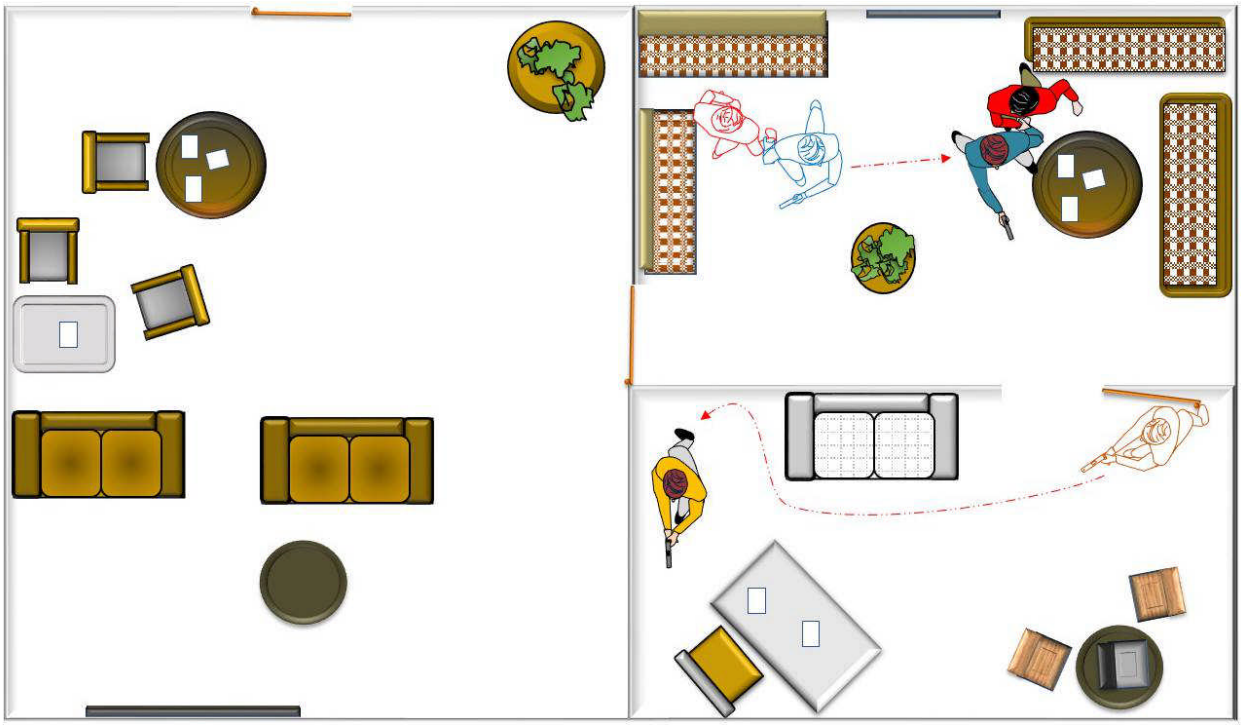
The advance chooses to employ a reverse-180 clearing technique, clearing the left corner then quickly pivoting 180-degrees to clear the opposite corner. If the advance detects someone behind the door, he/she can quickly check for threats. Meanwhile the OIC will remain in place and continue to protect the VIP and cover the rear. Monitoring the advance's clearing progress and being prepared to reposition the VIP as needed.



# SCENARIOS: TWO-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 13: Advance Clears Deeper into the Room

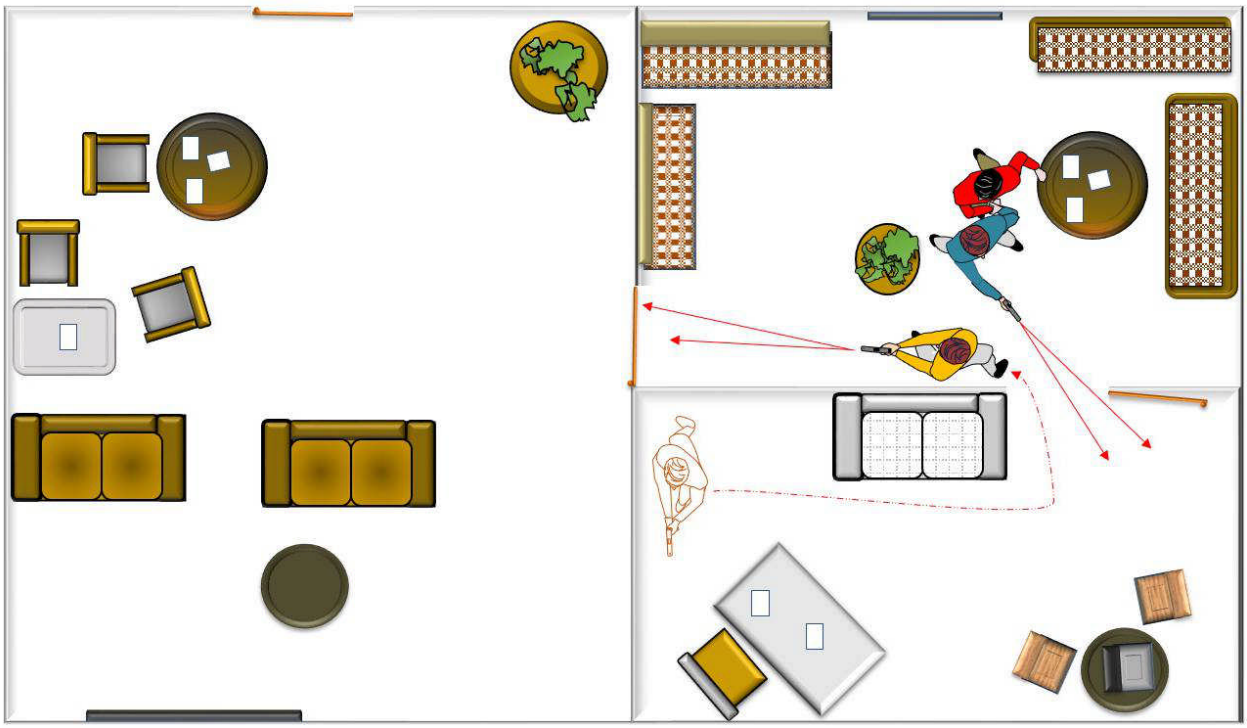
Having determined that there are no additional doors in the room, the advance identifies the room as a good safehaven for the VIP. However, there are danger areas behind furniture deeper in the room where a threat could be hiding. The advance quickly moves forward to clear these danger areas. The OIC and VIP move closer to the entry door to help ensure the detail remains in contact and is mutually supporting while reducing the chances of accidental friendly fire through walls.



# SCENARIOS: TWO-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 14: Advance Directs the OIC/VIP Into the Room

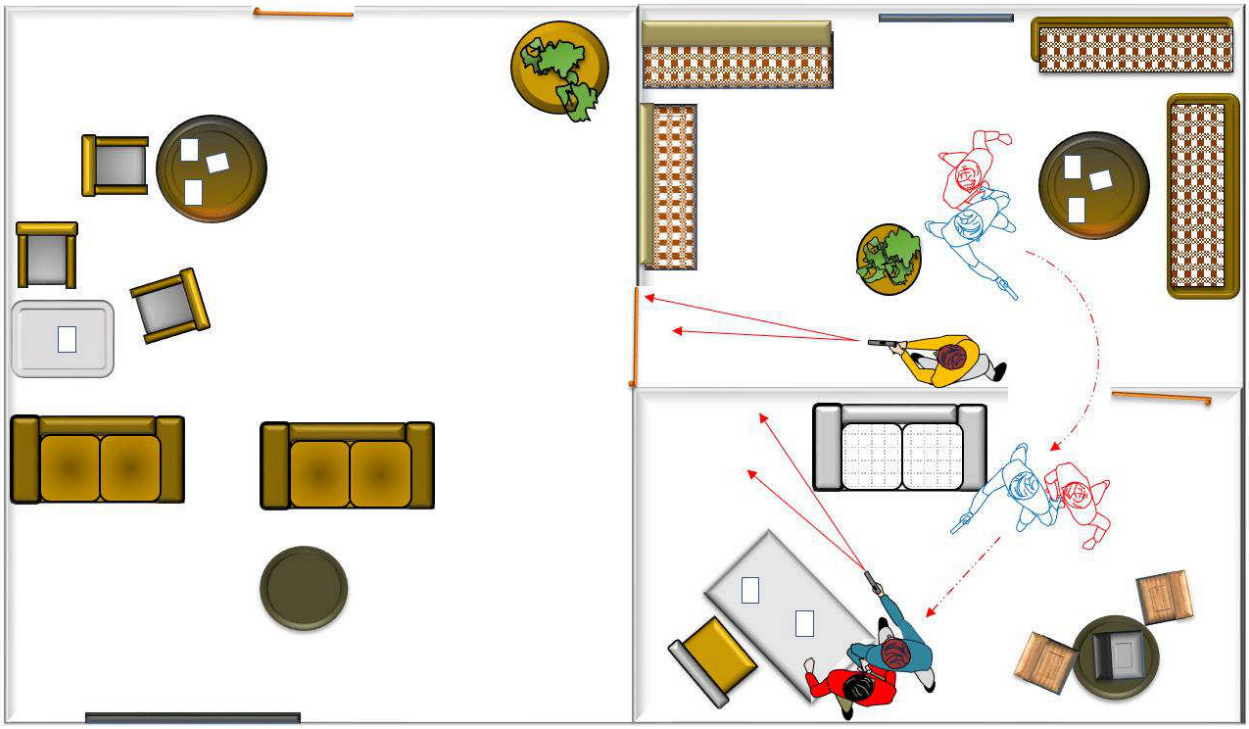
Having cleared all danger areas, the advance comes back out of the room, ensuring to use the proper verbal or visual signals as needed to avoid friendly fire accidents. Once exiting the room, the advance provides rear security while the OIC leads the VIP into the safehaven.



# SCENARIOS: TWO-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 15: OIC and VIP Enter the Room

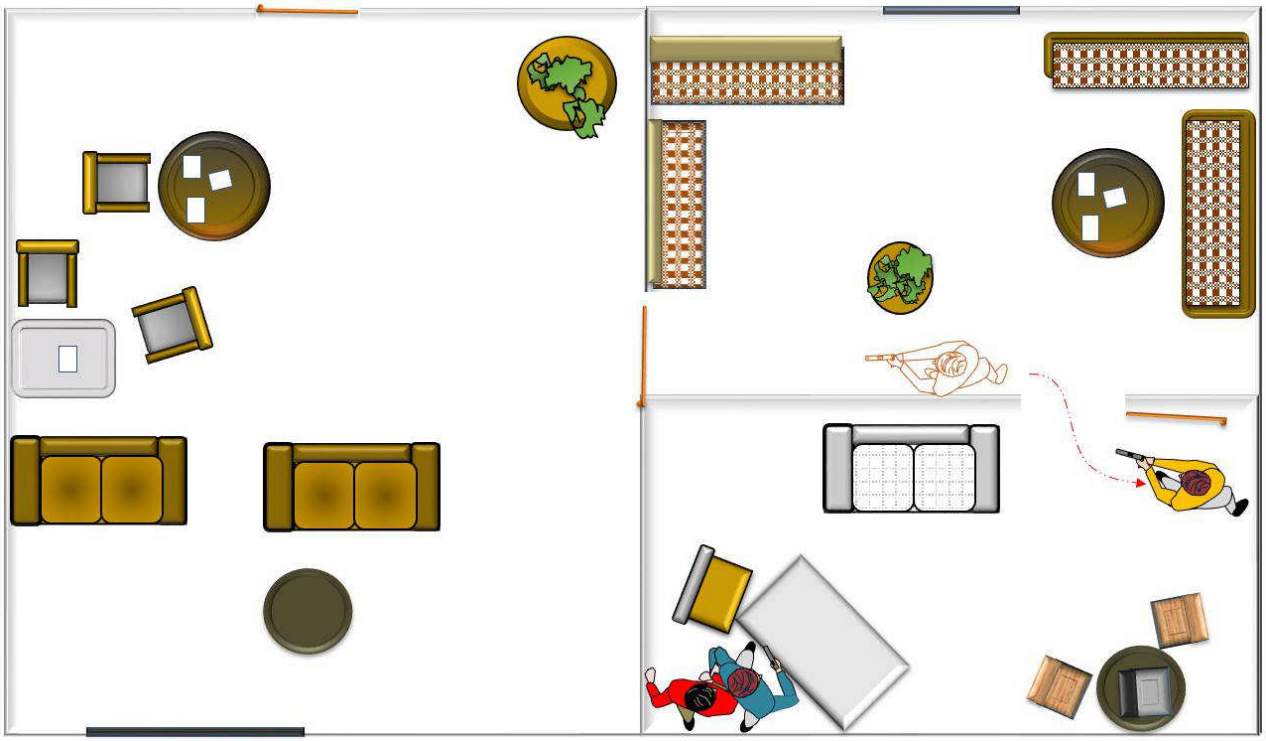
While the advance provides rear security, the OIC leads the VIP into the room and immediately begins looking for the safest place to position the VIP. While the advance already cleared the room, the OIC will re-clear behind furniture as needed for added redundancy and security.



# SCENARIOS: TWO-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 16: Advance Enters the Safehaven

The OIC positions the VIP in the safest corner and adjust furniture to shield the VIP. The advance joins the rest of the detail in the safehaven, closing the door and locking it if possible while continuing to provide rear security.



# SCENARIOS: TWO-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

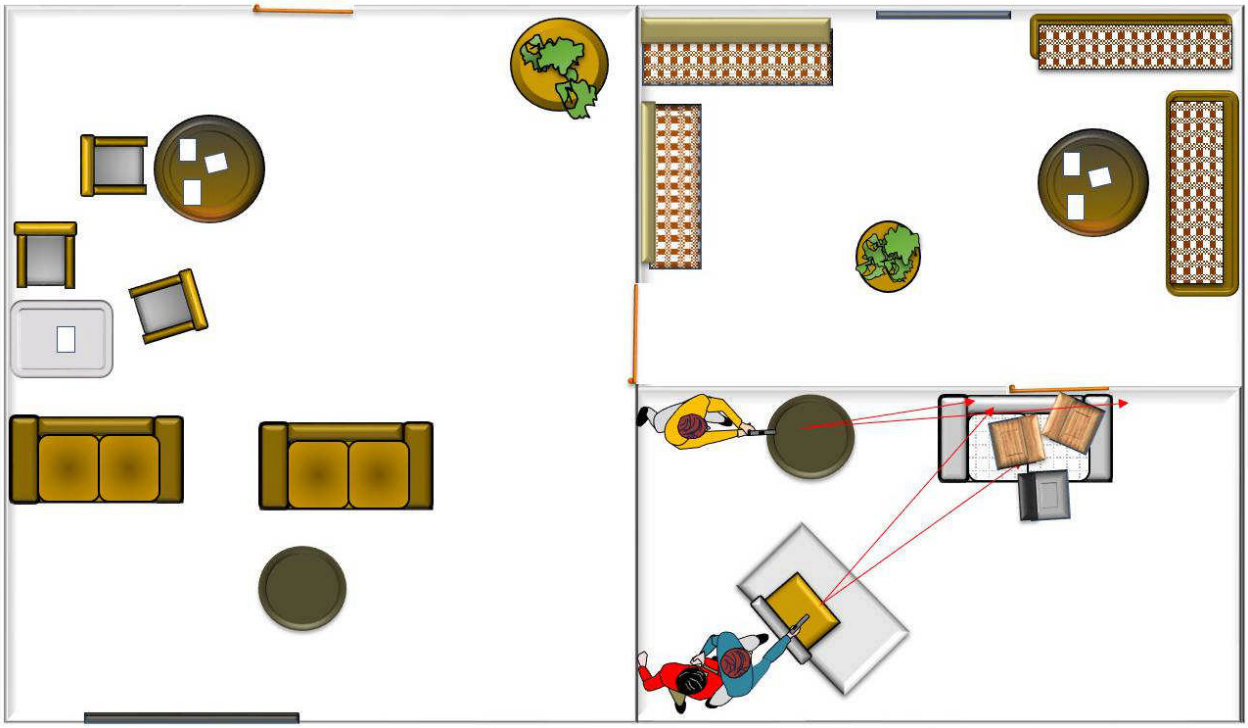
## STEP 17: Detail Establishes Hasty Defensive Positions

After closing and locking the door, both detail members will establish the best hasty positions to cover any entry points to the safehaven. The detail will also begin conducting priorities of work. The OIC will conduct his/her initial survey of the VIP, checking for injuries and providing aid as needed. The OIC will also provide water and encouragement to the VIP if possible to ensure the VIP remains calm. The detail will also establish or re-establish radio contact with supporting units or elements in the area that might be able to help.

# SCENARIOS: TWO-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 18: Detail Establishes Deliberate Defense

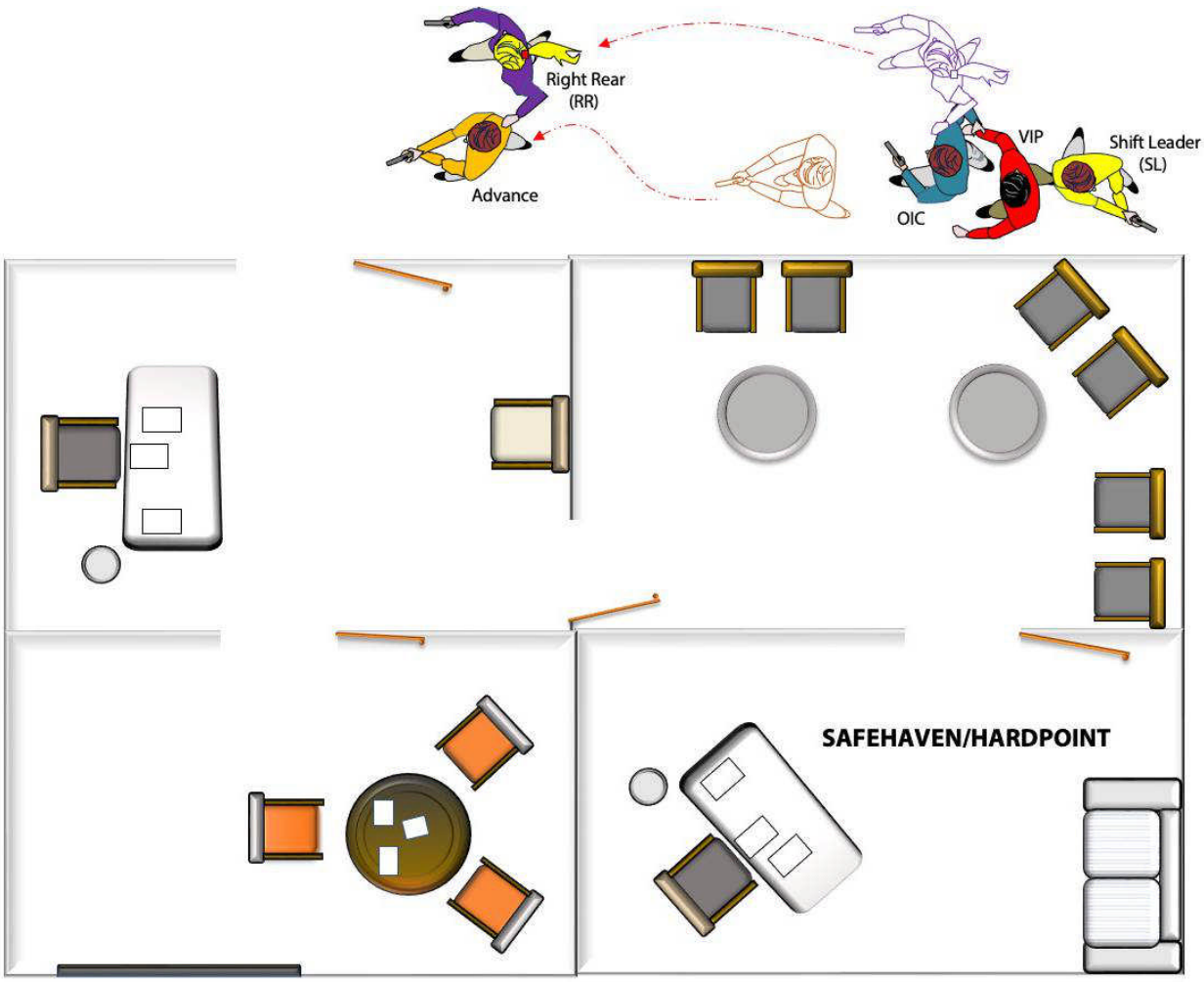
As time permits, the detail will improve their defensive position by moving furniture within the room to barricade doors and windows. The detail can also position furniture to build covered positions within the room. While most furniture is not bulletproof, heavier furniture offers some degree of protection.



# SCENARIOS: FOUR-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 1: Detail Conducts Delayed Entry of First Room

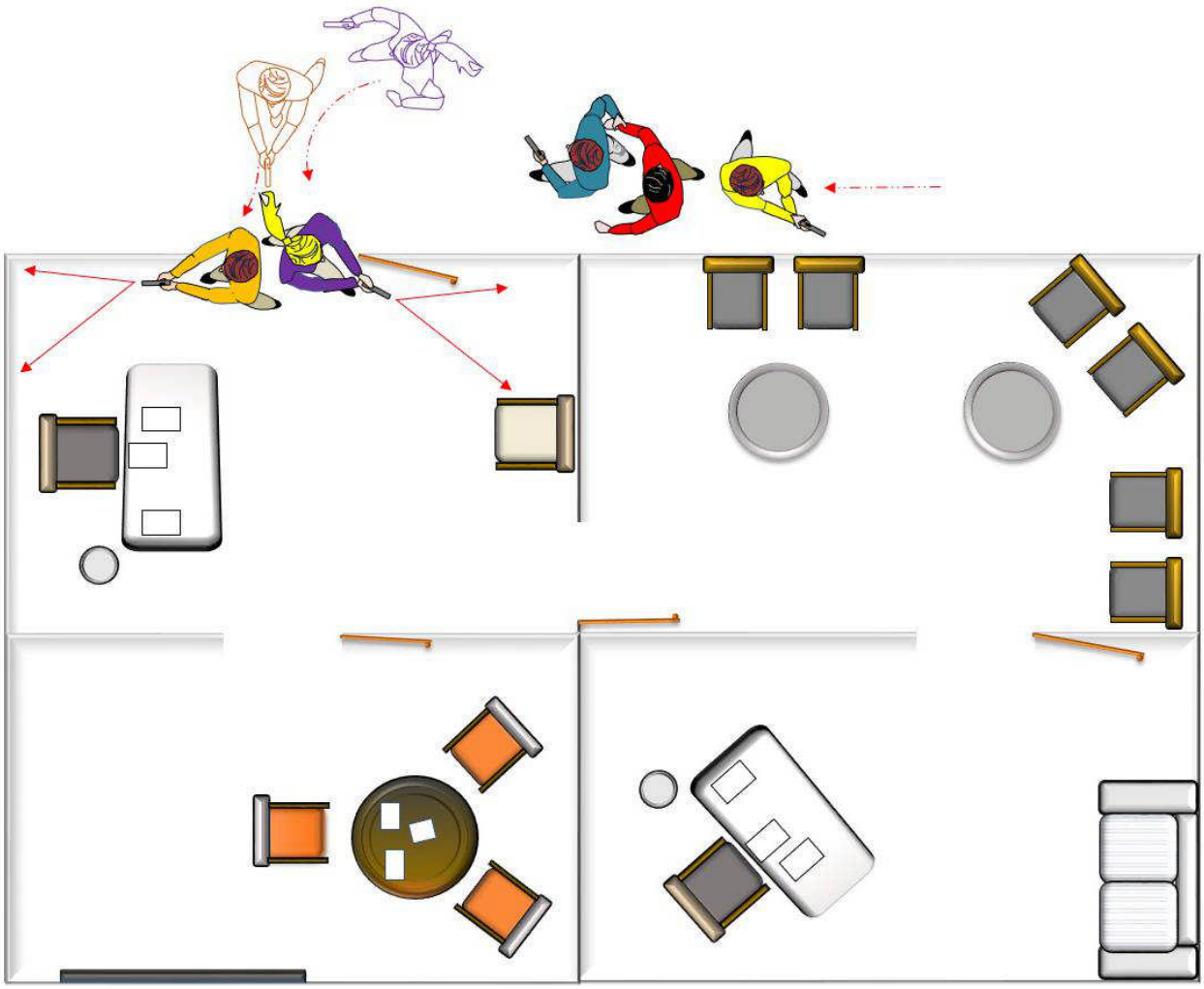
In this example, a four-person detail needs to enter a room from the exterior or hallway and move through multiple rooms with furniture in order to get the VIP to a safehaven. In this situation, the detail determines there is equal threat from the front and rear and will therefore conduct a delayed entry of the first room. The advance and Right Rear (RR) will clear the room ahead of the rest of the detail. The OIC and SL will remain outside until they are called in, providing body coverage for the VIP and covering the rear.



# SCENARIOS: FOUR-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 2: Advance and RR Clear the Corners

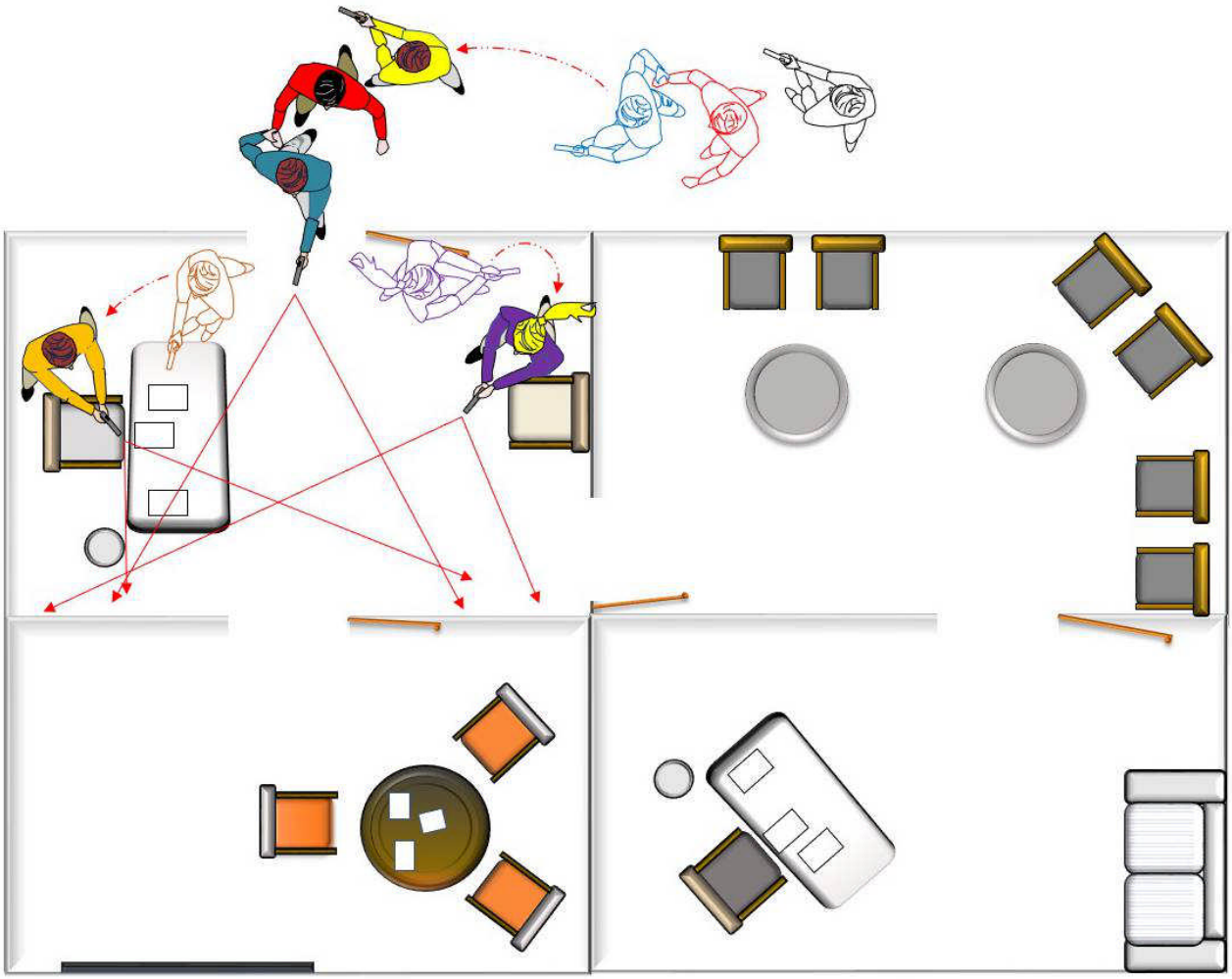
The advance swings out to clear the center of the room and then enters to clear the right corner. The RR follows right behind, clearing the left corner and covering the advance's back. The OIC continues to lead the VIP forward but maintains some distance from the door until the room is clear. The SL provides rear security, looking over the shoulder every few steps while continuing to walk forward in formation.



# SCENARIOS: FOUR-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 3: Advance and RR Dominate the Room

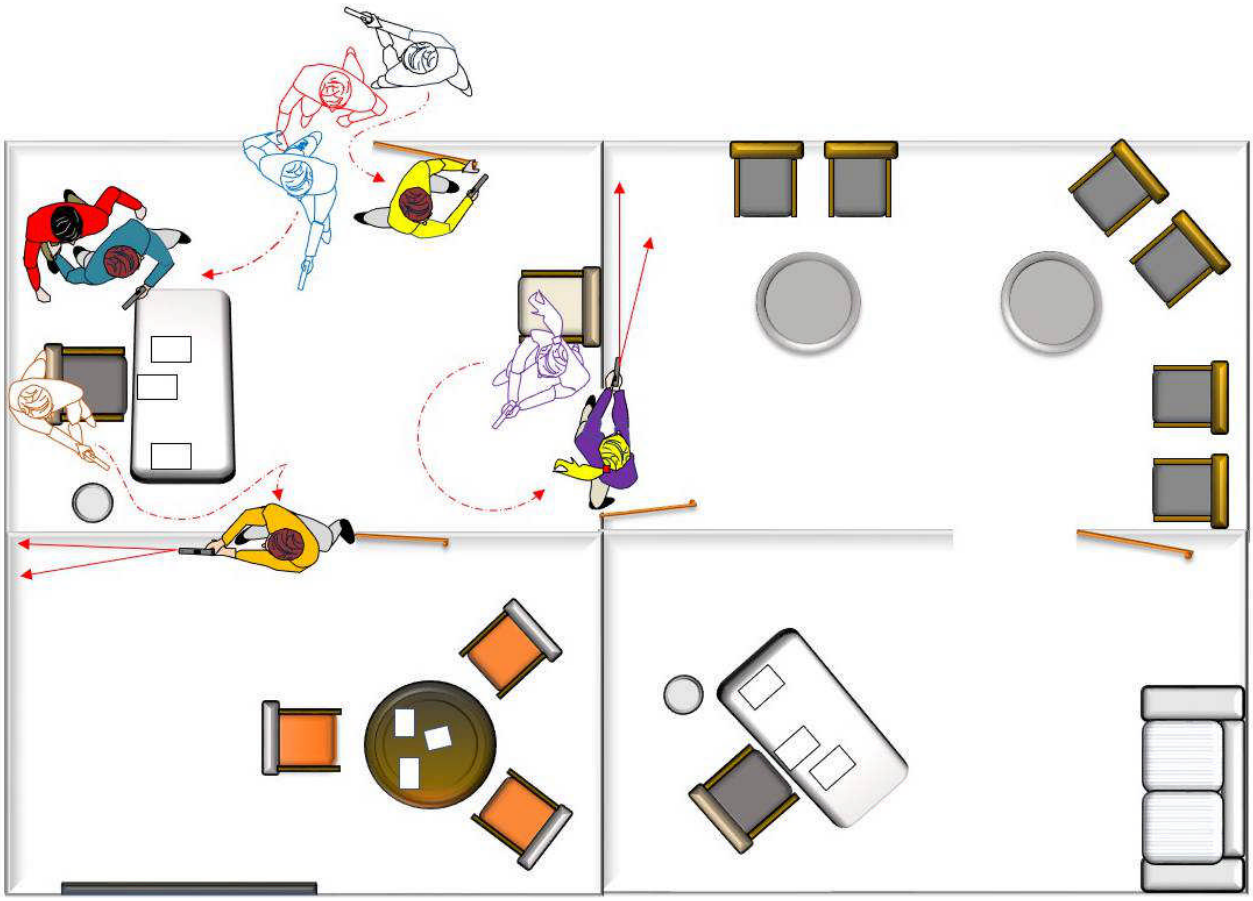
The advance and RR move deeper into the room to their domination points, clearing behind any furniture or obstacles. The RR would check behind the door as needed to ensure no one was hiding there. The OIC leads the VIP up to the doorway to maintain visual and communications contact with the two lead detail members. This will allow the OIC to quickly lead the VIP into the room once it is clear. The SL follows providing rear security. However, if there had been additional concern about threats to the front, the SL could have pushed forward past the OIC to assist the advance and RR in clearing the room.



# SCENARIOS: FOUR-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 4: Advance and RR Conduct Simultaneous Clear

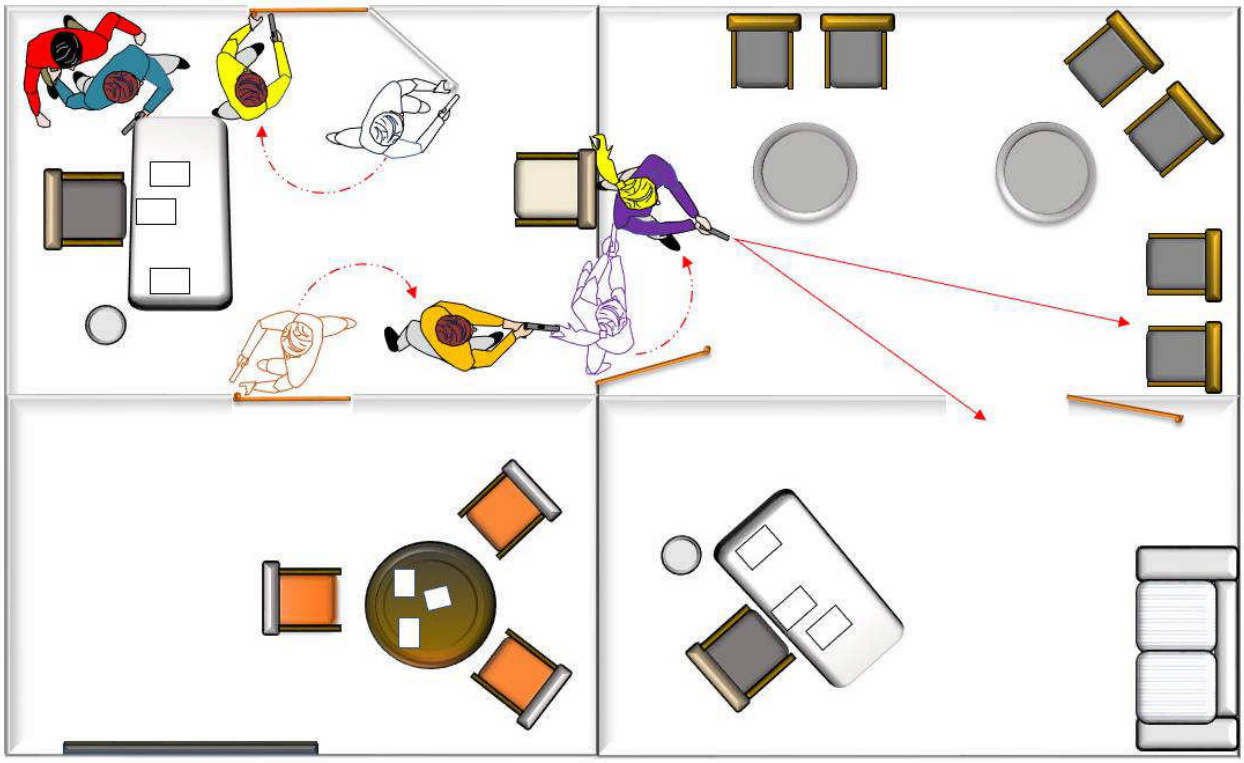
With the room determined to be clear, the OIC leads the VIP into the safest corner, the SL enters behind, closing and locking the door behind the detail. Having identified two open doors in the room, in this example the advance and RR decide to quickly push forward and clear both rooms simultaneously from the doorways. While this decision presents greater risk for the advance and RR, it can help reduce risk for the VIP by ensuring there are no threats hiding in either adjacent room. Conducting this sort of simultaneous clear can also help the detail decide which direction to go, or which room to move the VIP into. In this example, the advance sees a room with no adjoining rooms and limited heavy furniture while the RR sees a room with numerous heavy chairs and an open doorway deeper in the room. The second room is probably a better choice for the VIP's next move.



# SCENARIOS: FOUR-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 5: RR Leads into the Next Room

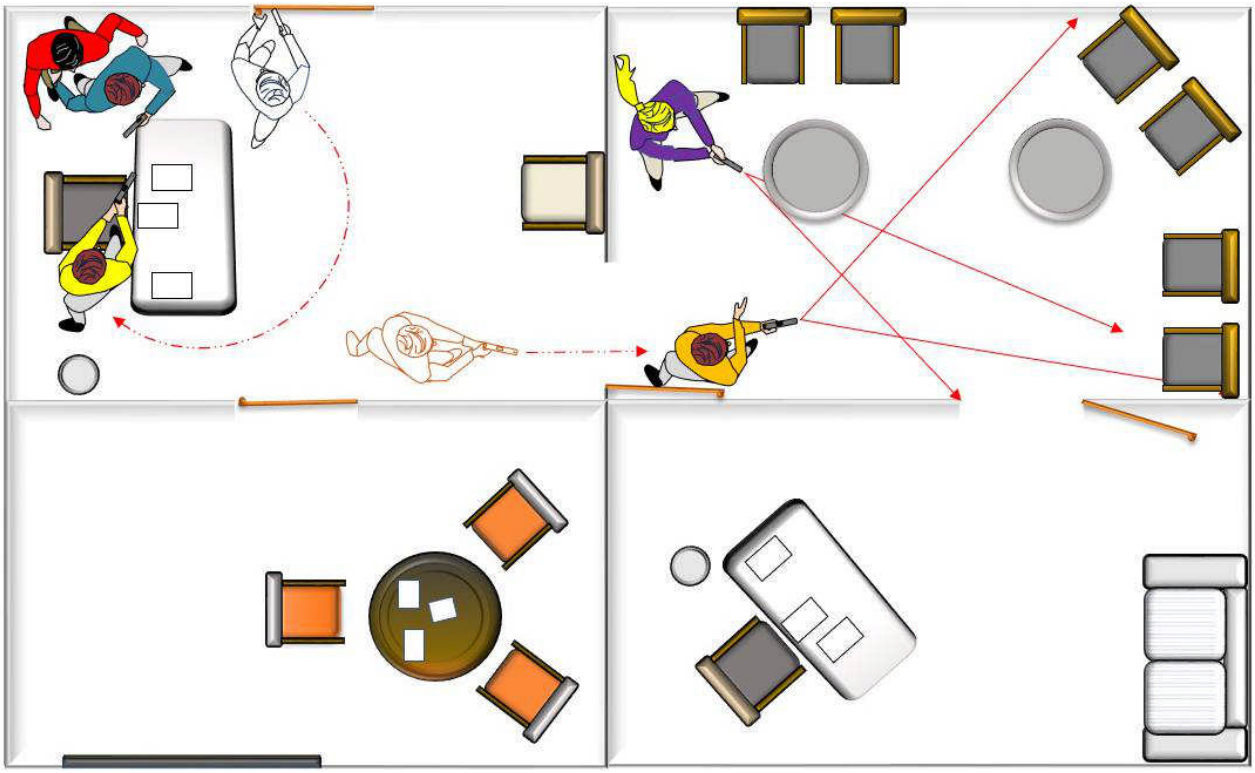
Having determined that the room he/she cleared was not a suitable safehaven, the advance closes the door of that room while the SL closes and locks the entry door behind the detail. Meanwhile, the RR leads the way clearing the next room and the advance follows right behind providing support.



# SCENARIOS: FOUR-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 6: Advance and RR Dominate the Next Room

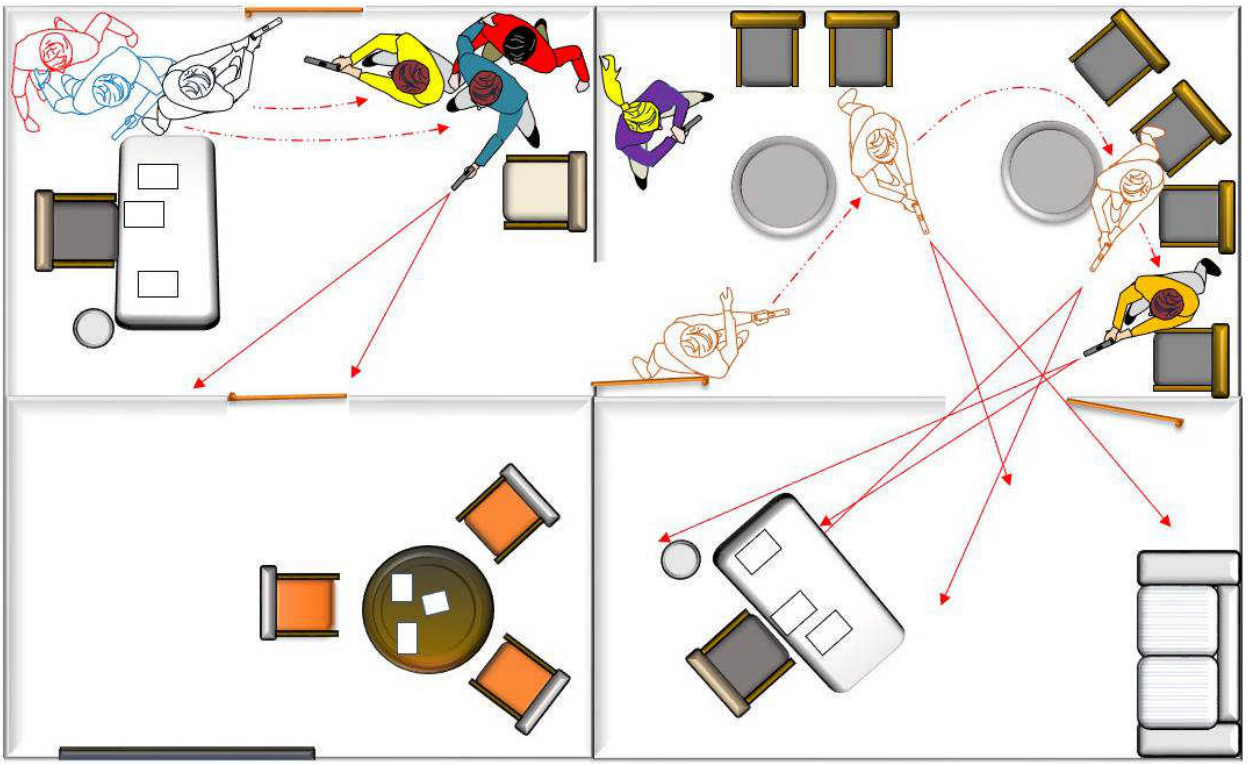
The OIC and SL establish a hasty defense in the first room while waiting for the advance and RR to clear the next room. The advance and RR move to their domination points and identify an open door deeper in the room. The advance decides to conduct a singleton clear of the open doorway and signals the RR to hold position.



# SCENARIOS: FOUR-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 7: Advance Conducts a Sweep of the Next Room

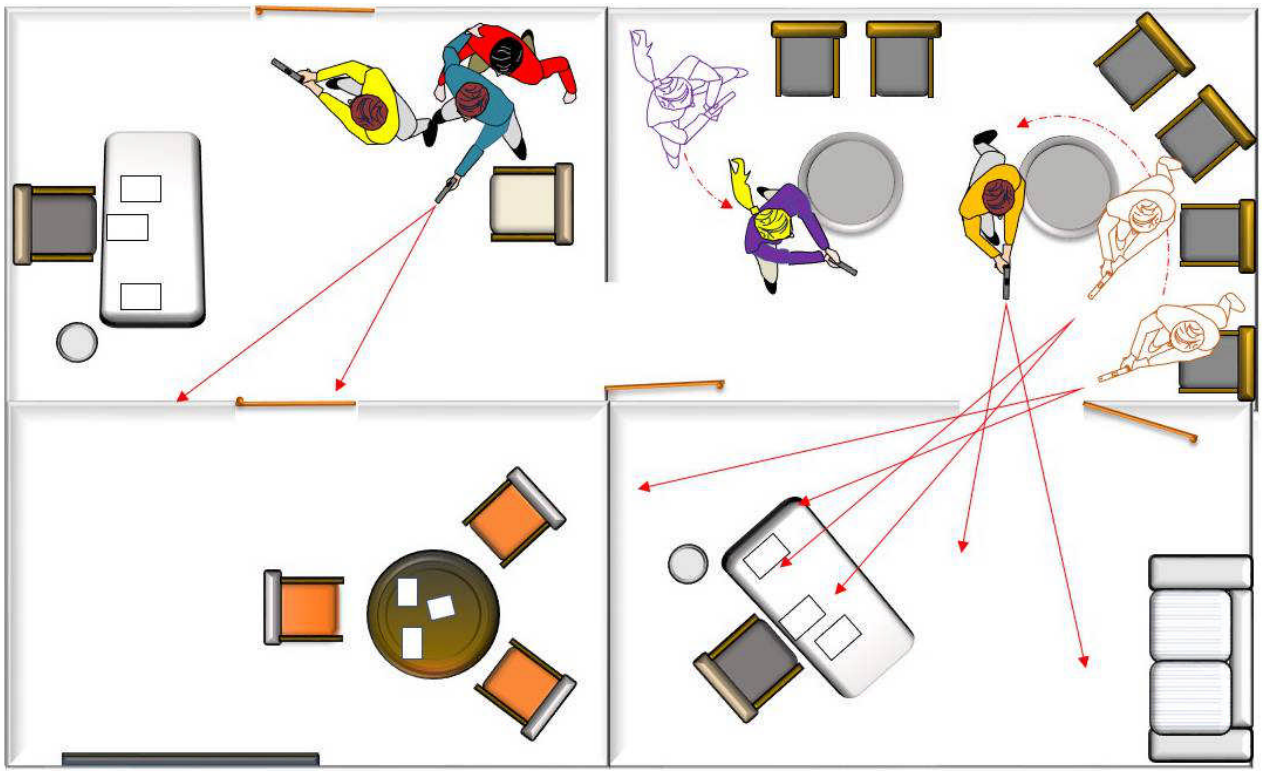
In this example, the advance decides to conduct a sweep of the next room to clear as much of the room as possible from the outside. The RR holds position while the rest of the detail moves forward to maintain contact with the lead elements and to be prepared to follow into the next room once it is determined to be safe. This example shows how a four-person detail can provide a one-room buffer in front of the VIP with the advance and RR clearing ahead while the OIC and SL secure the VIP one room back.



# SCENARIOS: FOUR-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 8: Advance and RR Prepare to Enter Next Room

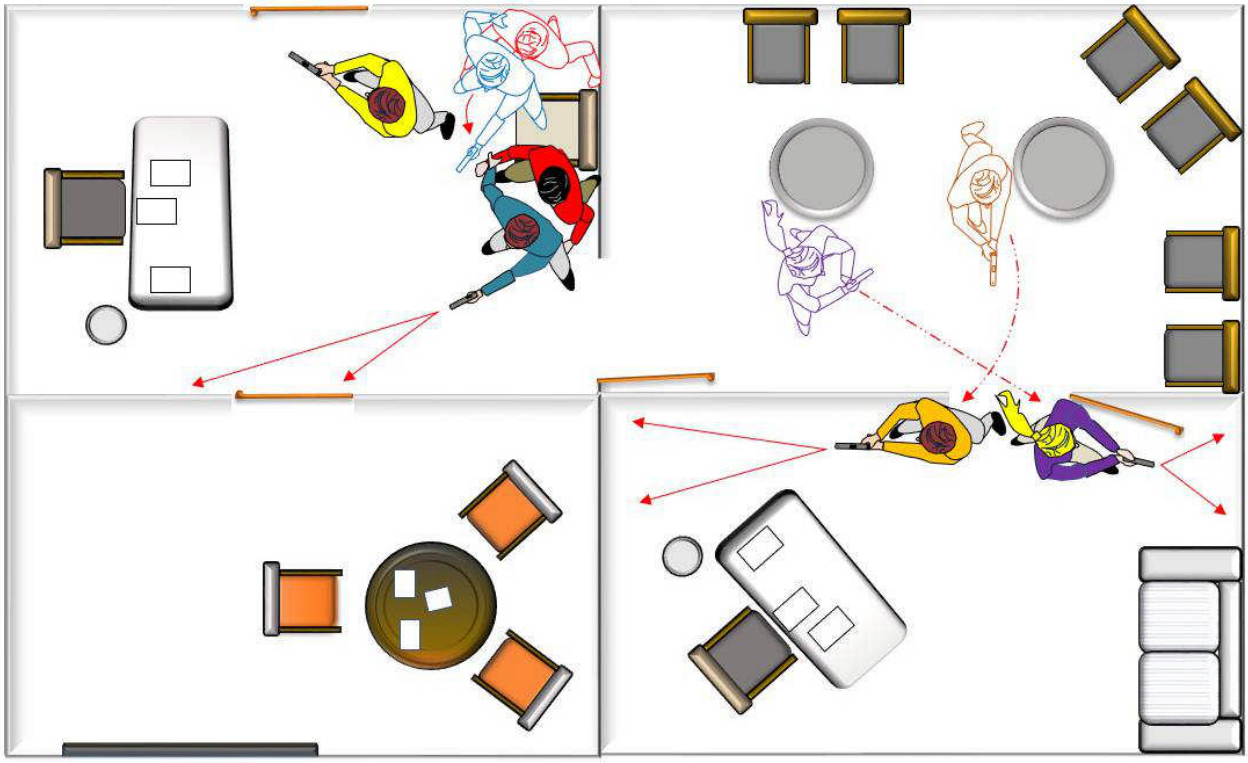
After completing the initial sweep, the advance conducts a half-sweep, moving back in the opposite direction until he/she is facing the door. Once prepared to enter, the advance can either signal the RR to stay back and conduct a singleton clear of the next room or start moving towards the door, signaling the RR to follow and assist in a two-person clear. In this example, the advance does not signal the RR to stay back and the two detail members advance to clear the next room together.



# SCENARIOS: FOUR-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 9: Advance and RR Clear the Corners

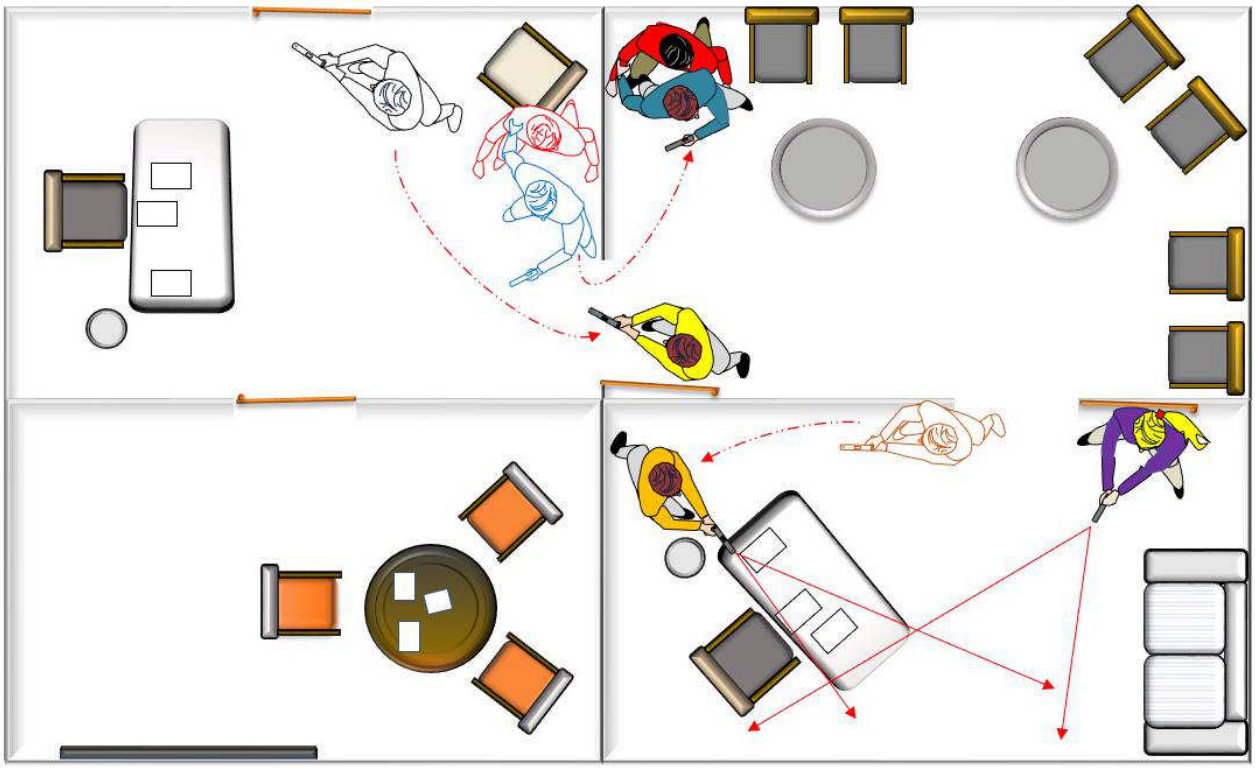
As the advance enters the room and clears the right corner, the RR follows and clears the left corner. The OIC moves closer to the door so he can peek around to check the progress and location of the advance and RR as needed.



# SCENARIOS: FOUR-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 10: Advance and RR Dominate the Next Room

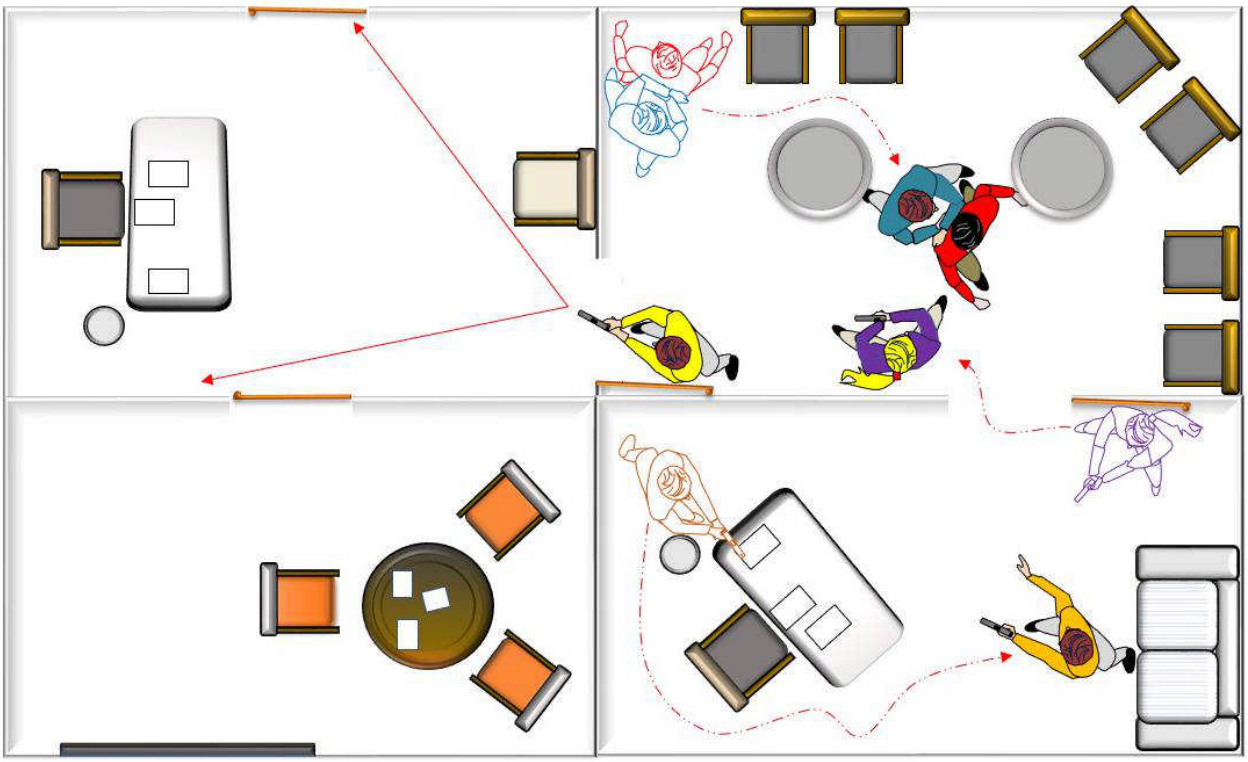
As the advance and RR penetrate deeper into the room to their domination points, the OIC moves the VIP forward one room to ensure the detail maintains contact, is mutually supporting and avoids friendly fire accidents from bullets penetrating through walls. The SL follows behind maintaining rear security. The advance and RR check behind furniture in the room and ensure it is a safe location to move the VIP.



# SCENARIOS: FOUR-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 11: RR Signals for the OIC and VIP to Enter

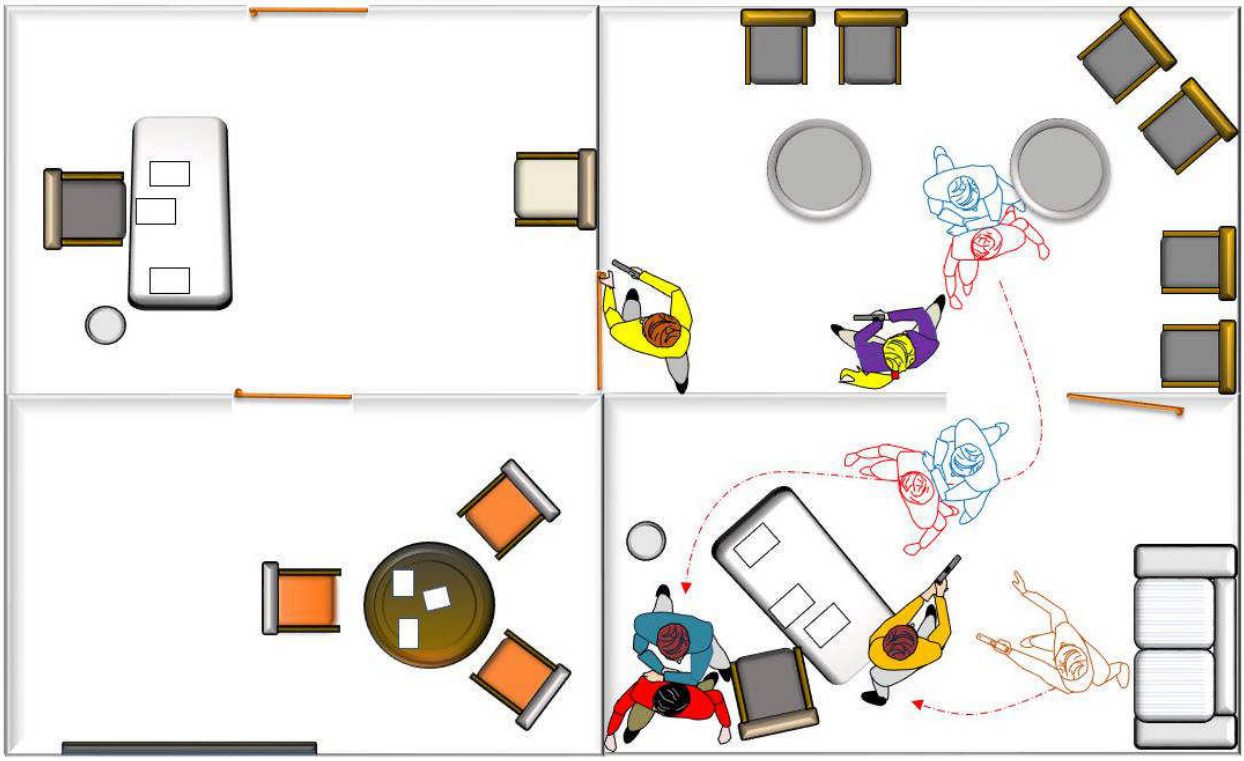
After checking behind furniture in the room and determining it is suitable for a safehaven, the advance repositions and signals the RR to move outside the room and direct the VIP inside. The SL continues to provide rear security as the OIC and VIP move forward towards the safehaven.



# SCENARIOS: FOUR-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 12: OIC and VIP Enter the Safehaven

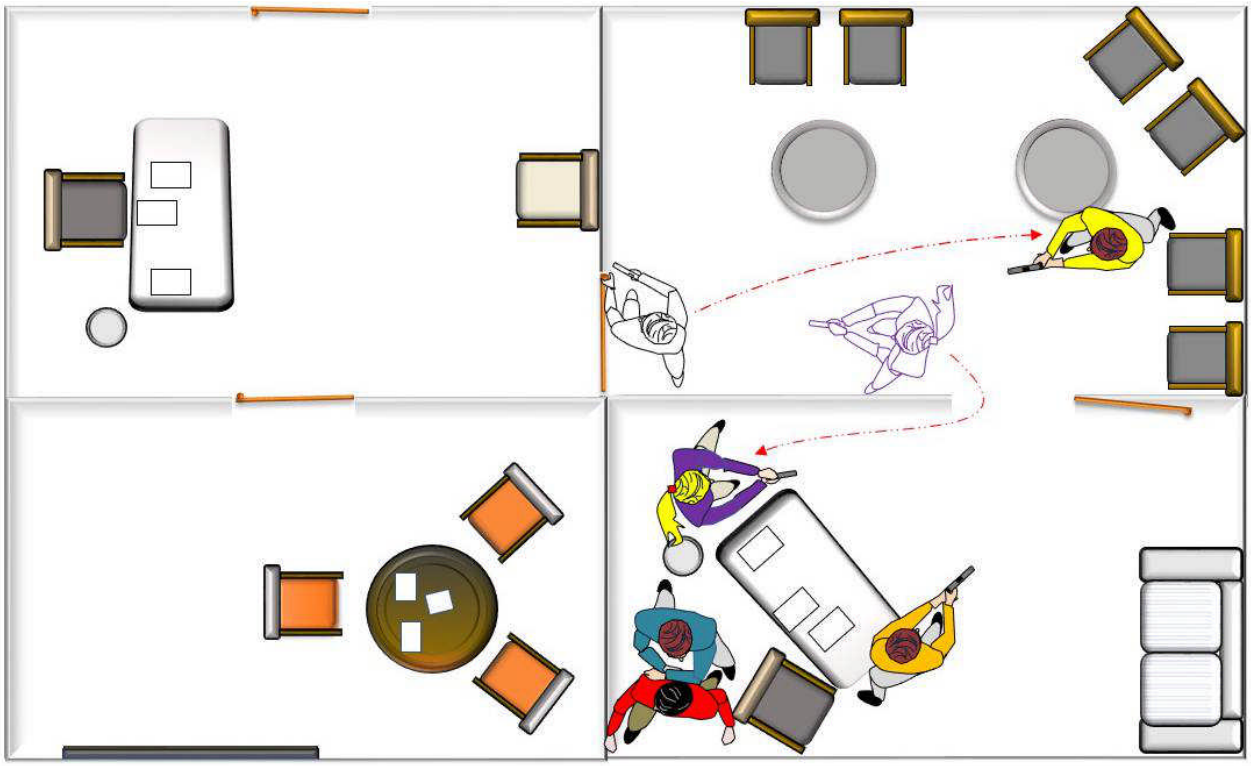
The OIC leads the VIP into the room to the safest possible location, in the corner behind furniture. The rest of the detail provides rear security and guidse the OIC and VIP in the right direction. The SL closes and locks the door of the adjacent room, continuing to provide rear security.



# SCENARIOS: FOUR-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 13: RR Enters the Safehaven

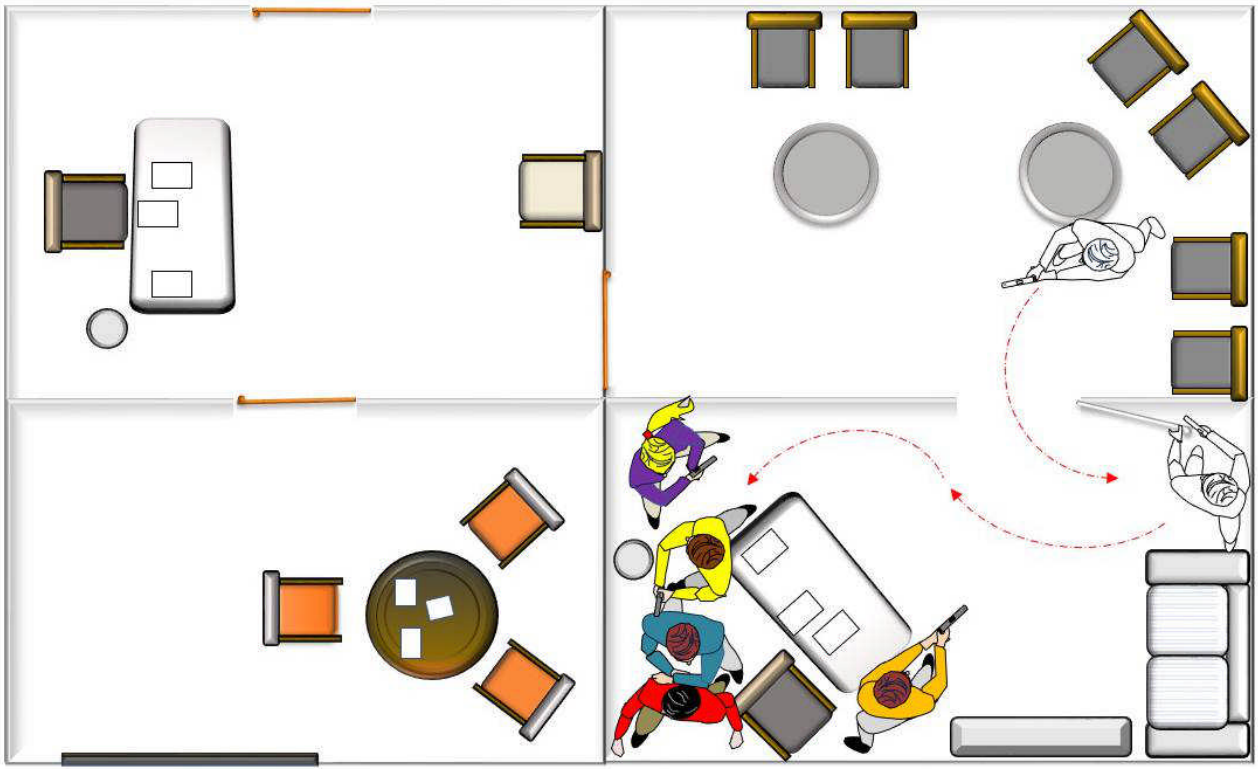
The RR and SL continue to provide rear security and reposition in the room as needed. The RR will follow into the safehaven next while the SL continues to cover the rear from deeper in the room where he/she is able to maintain contact with the rest of the detail. This is just one option for maintaining rear security while moving the detail into the safehaven. In other cases, the SL might enter before the RR or both detail members might enter the safehaven simultaneously. Note however it is always useful to have one detail member providing security while the other is moving if you have the manpower to do so. At this point the detail will also be starting to conduct priorities of work in the safehaven, with the OIC conducting his/her initial survey of the VIP and providing assistance as needed.



# SCENARIOS: FOUR-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 14: Detail Enters the Safe Haven

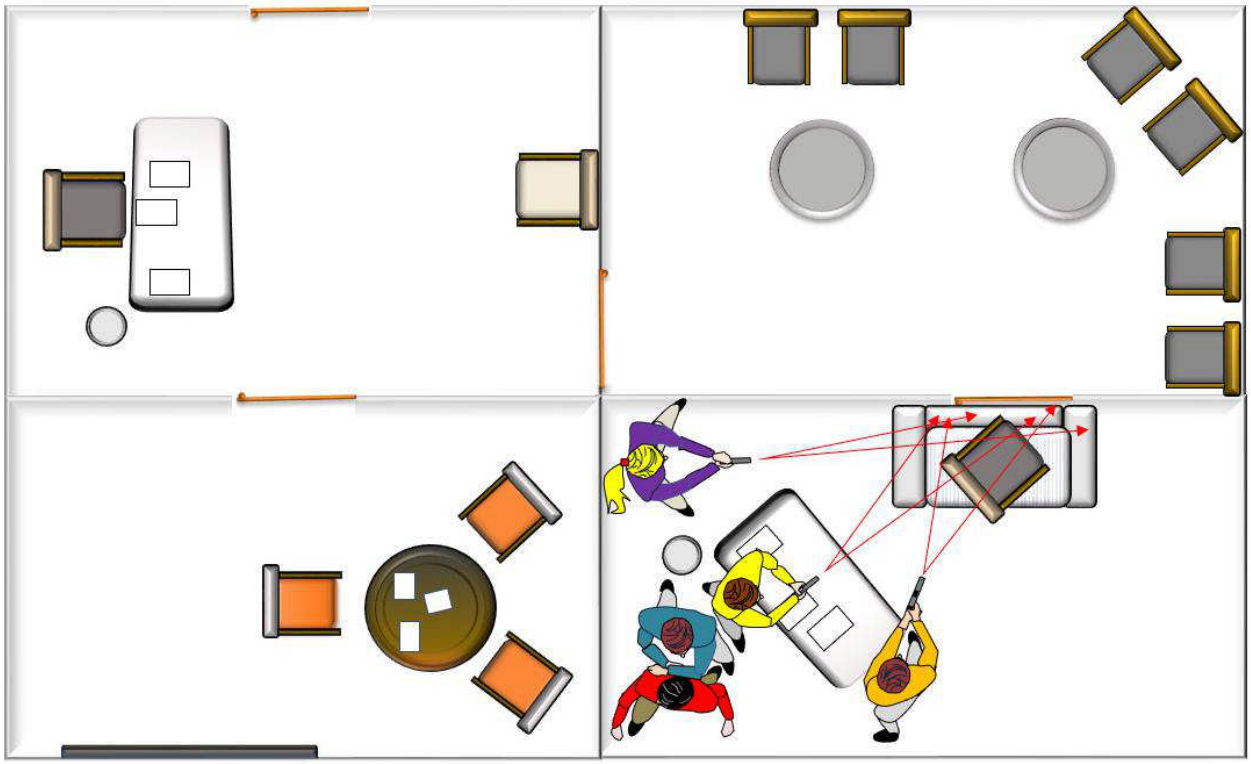
The SL is the last into the room in this example. He/she closes and locks the door behind the detail and all detail members assume hasty defensive positions within the room. The OIC continues to monitor and provide assistance to the VIP as needed and all detail members adjust position to best cover entry points to the room and/or offer body coverage for the VIP.



# SCENARIOS: FOUR-PERSON MULTIPLE-ROOM CLEAR

## STEP 15: Detail Establishes Deliberate Defense

As time permits, the detail will improve their defensive position by moving furniture within the room to barricade doors and windows. The detail can also position furniture to build covered positions within the room. While most furniture is not bulletproof, heavier furniture offers some degree of protection.



# EXAMPLE SCENARIOS
# Route Selection and Barricade Plans

While the previous section offered scenarios of how different sized details would clear a multiple room configuration, this section focuses on how the detail might plan or select a route through a larger building or structure, combining the various techniques and concepts discussed in the book so far. This section draws from the Special Tactics Escort Detail Venue VIP Protection book and offers only a few examples of how to plan an evacuation route. Given the nearly infinite possibilities that might arise when planning a route through different building configurations, only a generalized discussion is possible.

Ideally, the detail will have had time to pre-plan evacuation routes and study the floorplan of a venue prior to the VIP's visit. This will allow the detail to identify good locations for safehavens and think through the best ways to quickly get the VIP to each safehaven in an emergency. If the advance arrives at the venue before the rest of the detail, the advance will be able to scout ahead and gain a better understanding of the terrain and building layouts. This is one reason why it is generally preferable for the advance to lead the way when conducting PRCT.

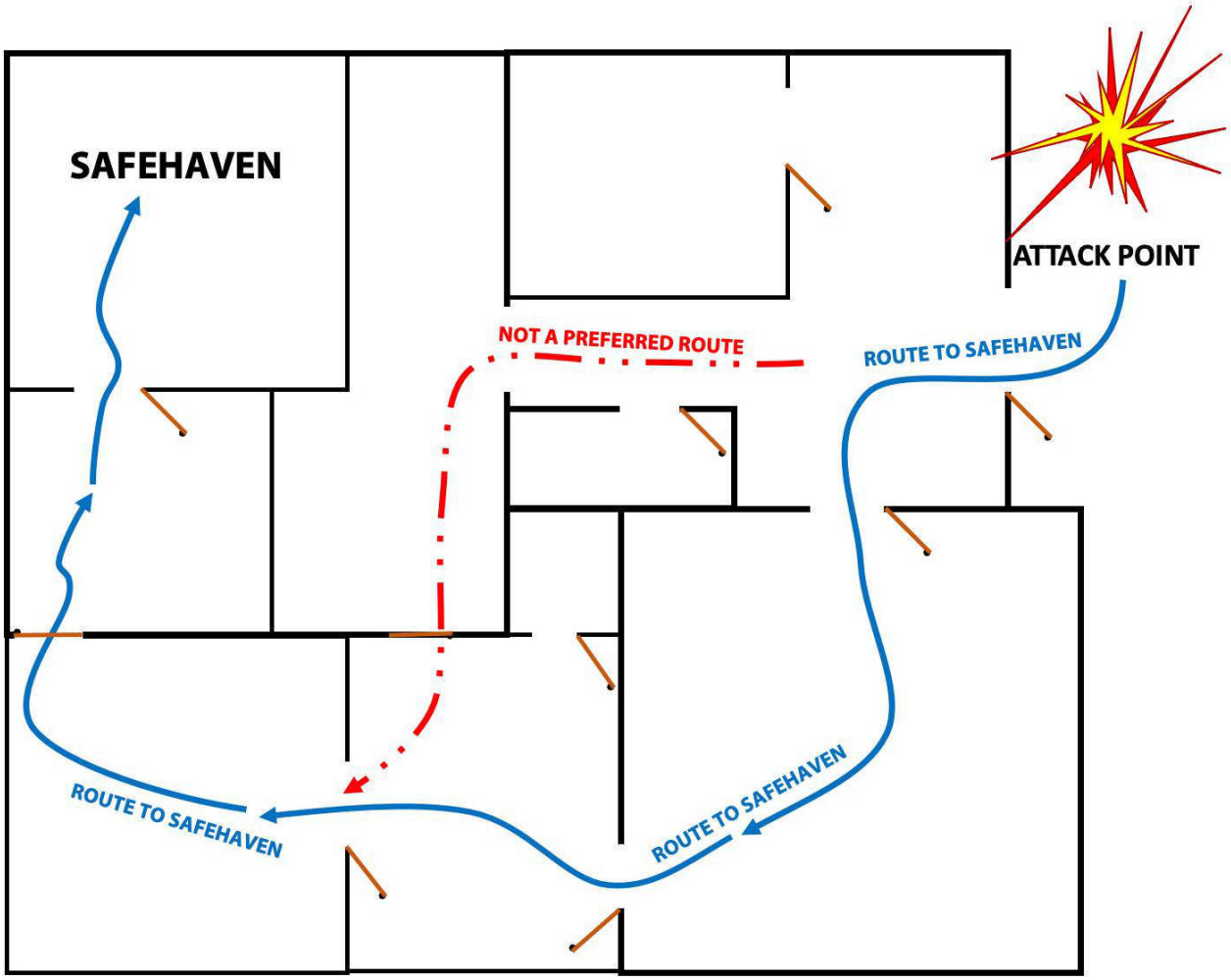
In other cases, it might not be possible to establish safehavens and plan evacuation routes in advance. For example, if the motorcade is hit enroute to the venue and everyone must bail out or evacuate to a nearby building, the detail might have little to no information about the terrain and layout of the surrounding area. In these cases, the detail will either need to make quick decisions on the move or send one or two detail members to scout ahead and identify suitable safehavens or evacuation routes.

When combining the concepts in this section with the examples from the previous section and the various techniques and principles explained in this book, the reader should have a fairly good grasp on how to effectively execute PRCT as part of a real-world protection operation. Once again, when practicing route planning or planning routes for a real operation, it can be very helpful to have table-top boards, maps, and floorplans.

# SCENARIOS: ROUTE SELECTION

## Select the Best Route and Safehaven

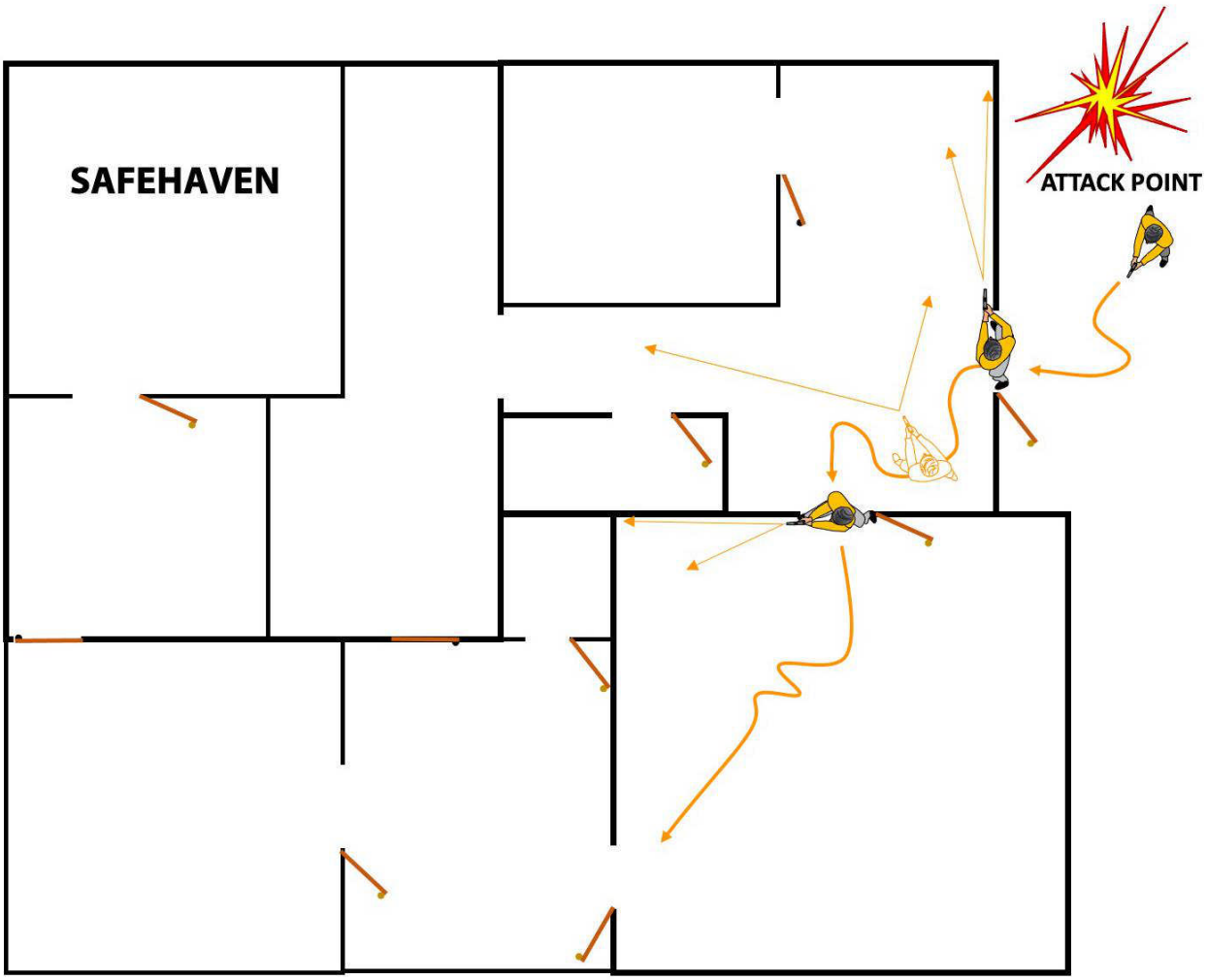
When selecting a safehaven, you are looking for a room or structure that is easily defensible with solid walls, plenty of cover/concealment and generally only one entry/exit where attackers can approach. However, if possible, you should also have at least one possible escape route for the detail and the VIP that is preferably less obvious to attackers. A good safehaven gives the detail the option of establishing several, successive defensive positions to fall back from while providing early warning and delaying the attack. When moving to the safehaven it is best not to move down hallways with multiple points of exposure. It is better to move through individual rooms so you can transition to a hasty defensive posture in the room at any moment, close, lock and barricade the doors if appropriate. The diagram below shows a good route to an acceptable safehaven.



# SCENARIOS: ROUTE SELECTION

## Singleton Clearing Ahead of the VIP/Detail

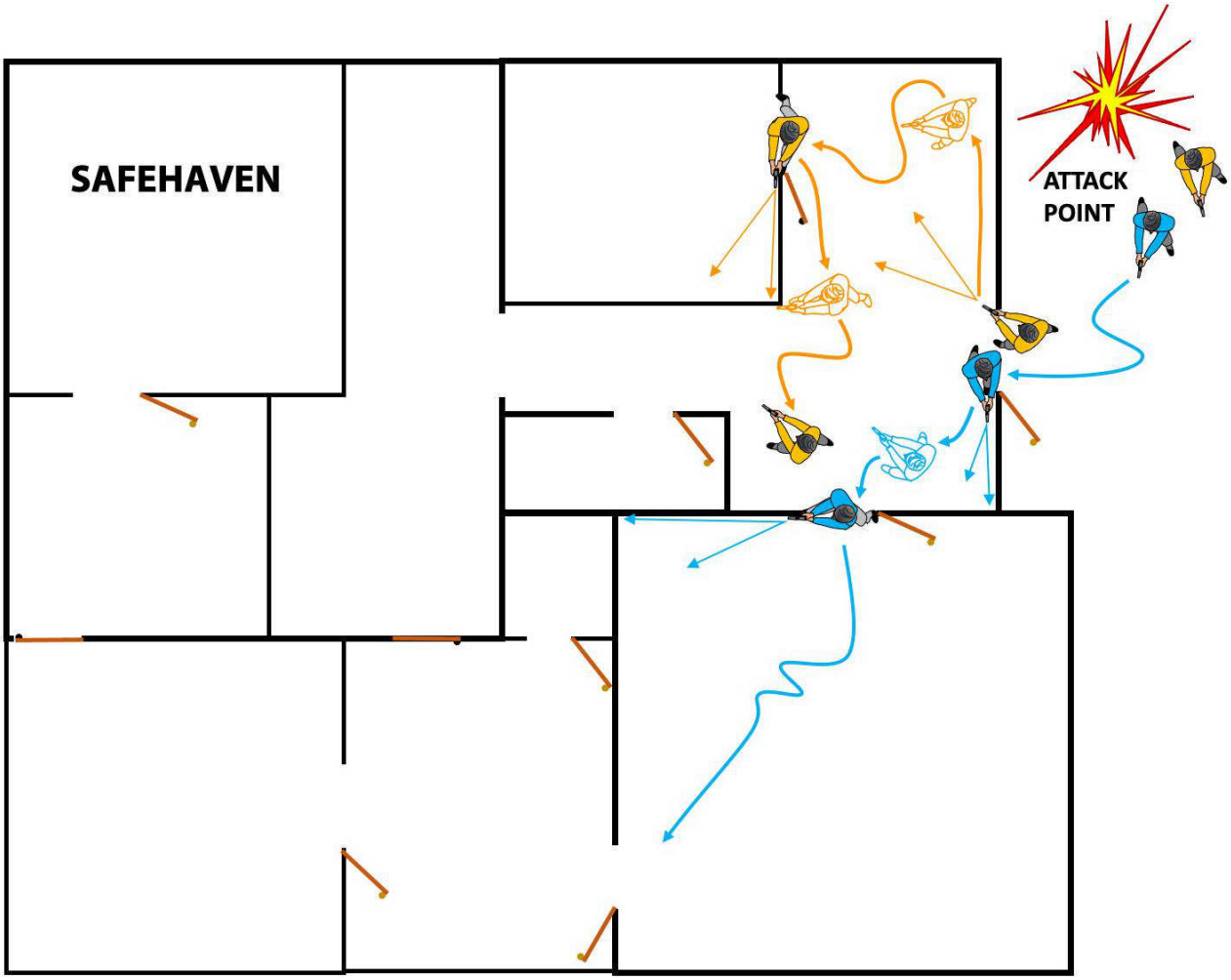
When moving to the safehaven, it is generally best to have one or more detail members scout ahead to establish the best route, ensure the route is safe, and clear the safehaven of any possible threats. Depending on the size of the detail and the situation, you may choose to send only one detail member ahead to clear. In other cases, you might only have one person to send. In the diagram below, the detail member uses a variety of singleton clearing techniques to move along the route towards the safehaven.



# SCENARIOS: ROUTE SELECTION

## Two-Person Clearing Ahead of the VIP/Detail

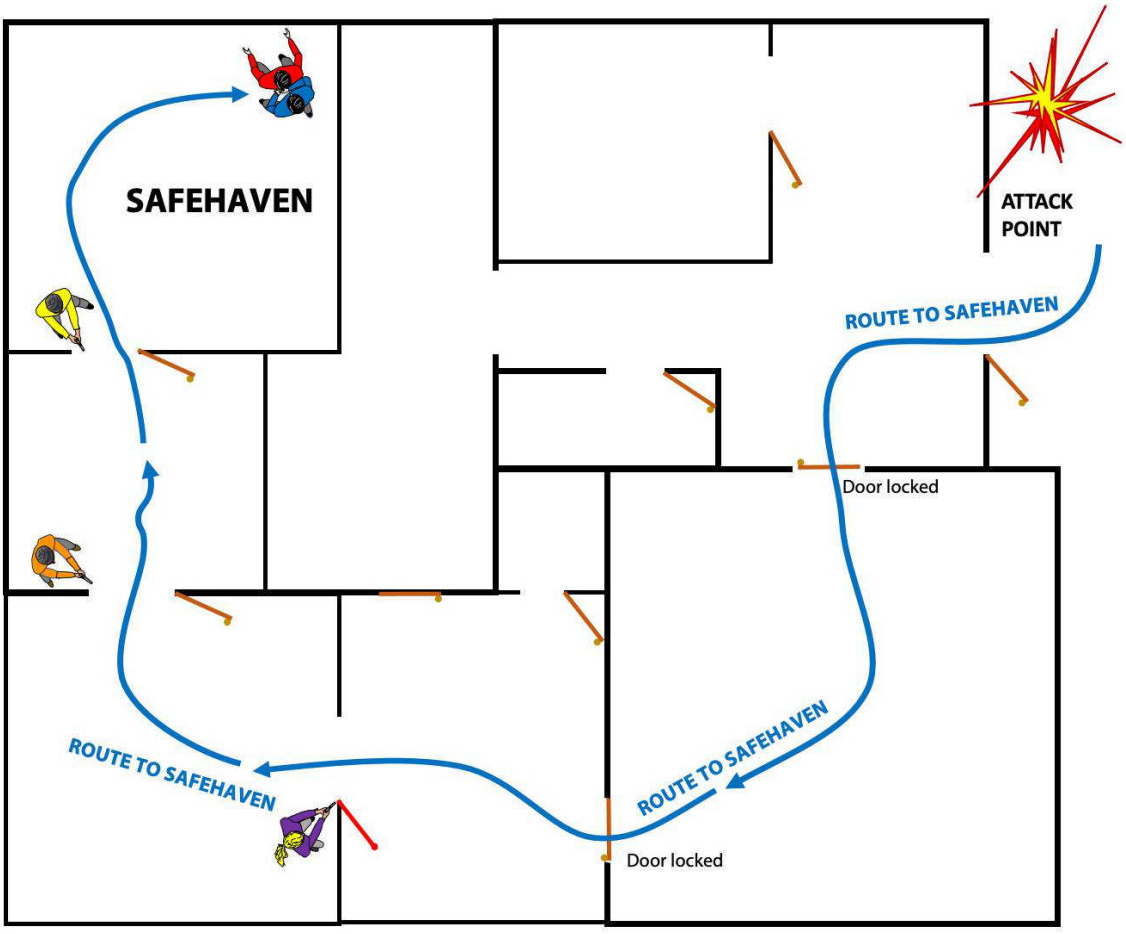
In some cases, the OIC or SL might decide to send forward two detail members to establish the best route, ensure the route is safe, and clear the safehaven of any possible threats. Sending two people instead of one is always safer for the clearing team. In some cases you might even be able to send three people. However, in an escort detail of no more than four detail members this is less likely since you will probably want to leave more than one detail member with the VIP. Therefore, a two-person clearing team is a good option for a 4-person detail. In the diagram below, the clearing team uses a variety of techniques to move along the route towards the safehaven.



# SCENARIOS: ROUTE SELECTION

## Establishing Fallback Positions

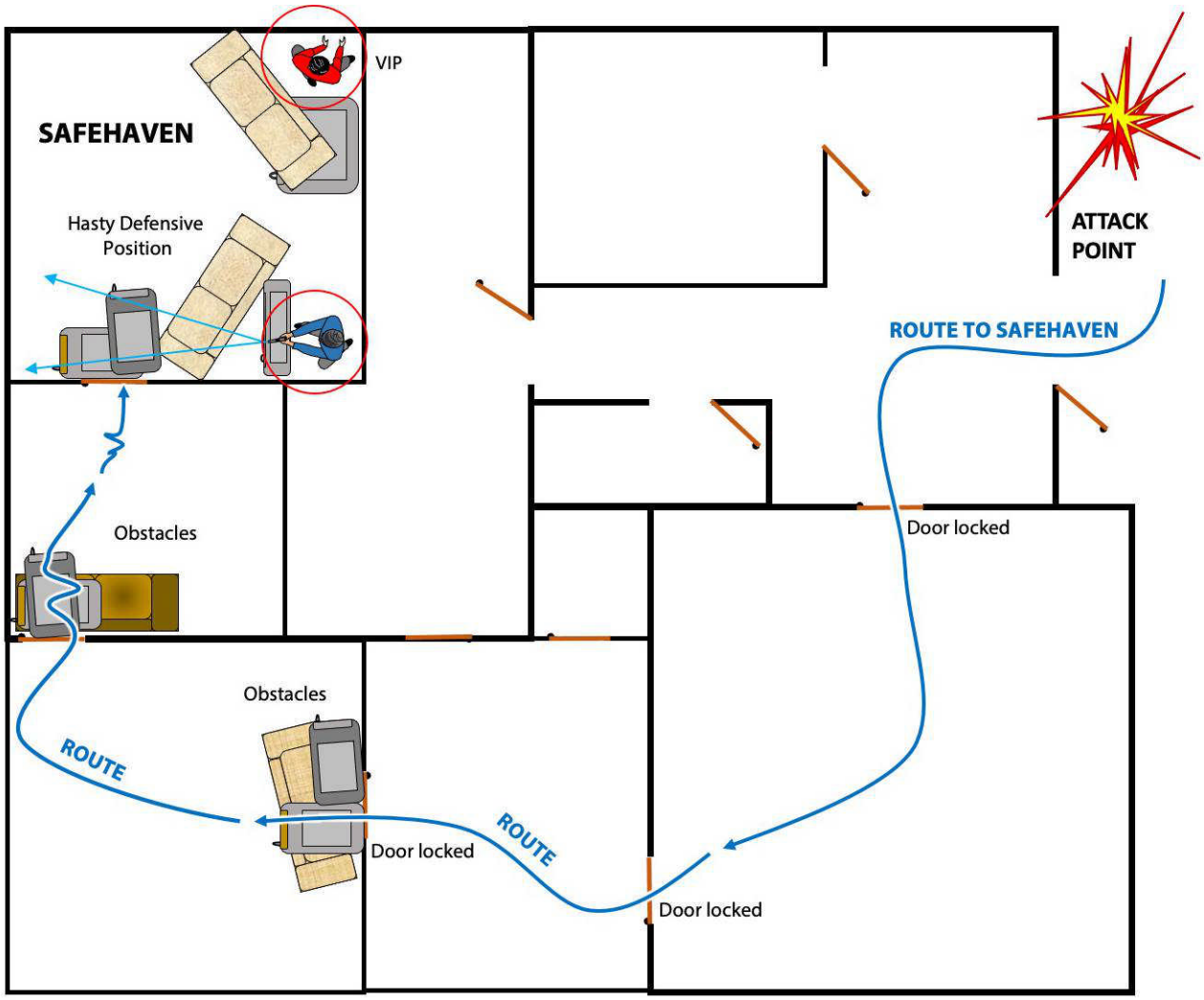
After clearing the route with either one or two detail members, the rest of the detail can quickly move the VIP along the route to the safehaven. Depending on the size of the detail, you may want to post detail members at key points along the route to help direct and guide the OIC and VIP to the right location. Once the OIC and VIP are in the safehaven, if you have a larger detail you may want to send detail members out to establish defensive fallback positions along the expected route of hostile attack. In military terms, you are setting up a defense-in-depth. In preparing this defense you will generally want to lock any doors you are not manning. In the example below, detail members have posted themselves to defend from doors leading back to the VIP. This defensive plan will delay a hostile attack as much as possible, while also providing early warning of an incoming attack to the VIP. However, when setting up the defense, it is important to ensure detail members do not accidentally shoot each other or step into each other's lines of fire. Good communication and control measures are critical for this approach.



# SCENARIOS: BARRICADE PLAN

## Barricading Doors

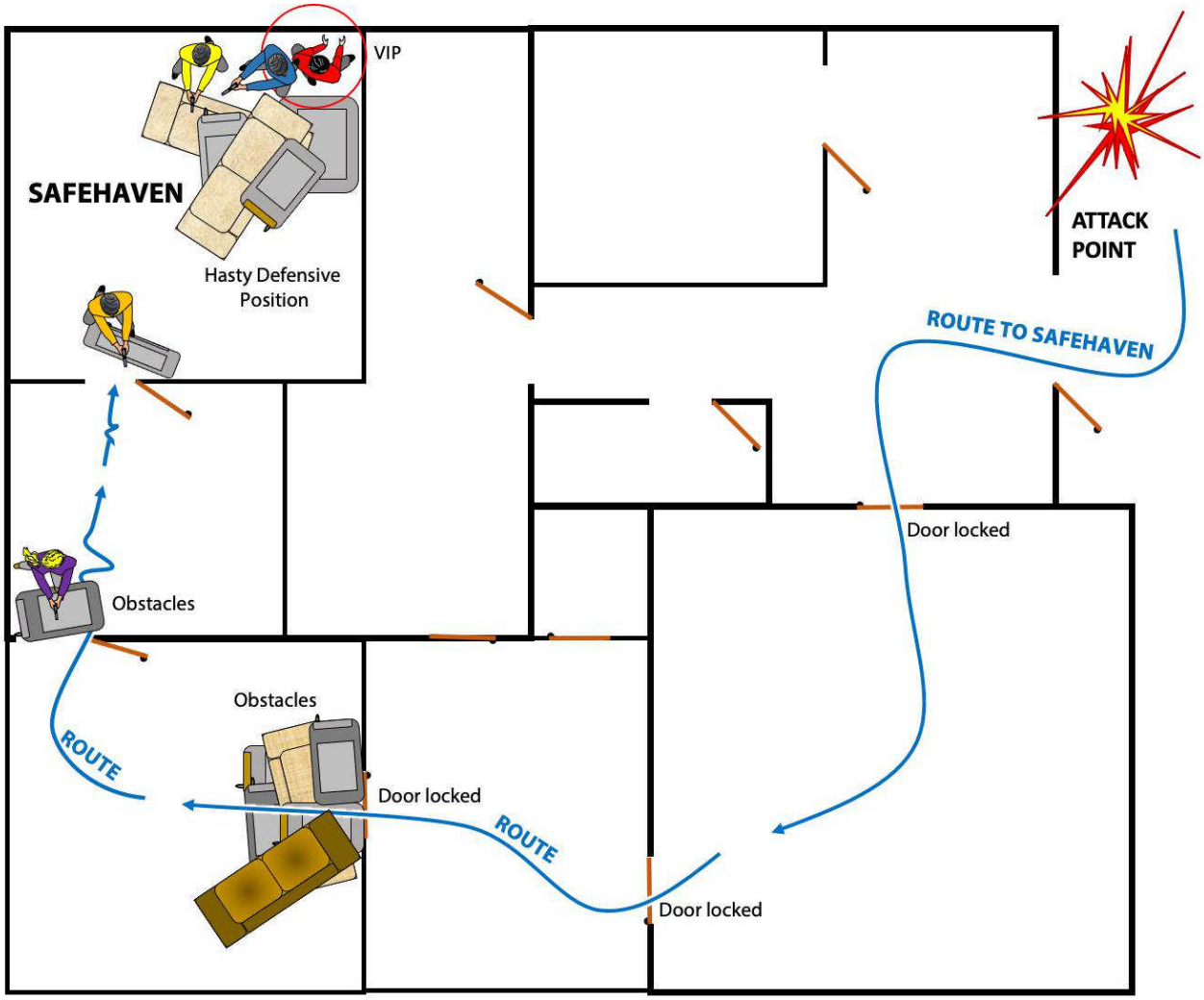
In addition to setting up fallback positions and locking doors, you may want to barricade doors with furniture and heavy objects. This approach can be useful for smaller details that do not have enough personnel to establish successive fallback positions. Barricading doors will delay the hostile attack and also provide early warning for the detail since it will be easy to hear attackers trying to break through barricades. The example below shows a heavily barricaded safehaven constructed by a singleton detail that had plenty of time to prepare and strengthen the defense. When building up defenses, it is important not build them up so much that the detail becomes completely trapped and vulnerable to fire or smoke. It is important not to leave the VIP alone for extended periods when preparing defenses.



# SCENARIOS: BARRICADE PLAN

## Complex Defensive Preparations

If you have a larger detail, the ideal safehaven combines a variety of different defensive measures including locked doors, barricades/obstacles, and fallback defensive positions. The example below shows how a four-person detail might prepare a hasty defensive position to protect the VIP in the safehaven. When constructing defenses, it is always critical to think through your plan and determine how each detail member will react and fall back under fire. You do not want to set up your defense in a way that traps or isolates any part of the detail.



# FURTHER TRAINING
# Courses and Resources

This book provides an overview of VIP protection room clearing tactics (PRCT). However, the book leaves many areas unexplored, especially when it comes to other elements of VIP protection including venue security, mobile security, and site security. As already mentioned, since this is an advanced series book, it assumes that readers are already familiar with the mechanics of room clearing tactics as taught by other Special Tactics books. Thus, there are a variety of other Special Tactics books, both current and in production, that are designed to complement this one. For more information on these books, please visit our website at **www.specialtactics.me.**

Every Special Tactics book has a companion online course. If you cannot find the online course associated with your book that means it is still in production and has not yet been released. Visit our website to explore our growing selection of online courses. Online courses compliment the material covered in the book and present knowledge and information in a variety of multimedia formats including interactive presentations, animations, videos, and podcasts. All online courses also include interactive quizzes, tests, and a serial-numbered completion certificate.

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